

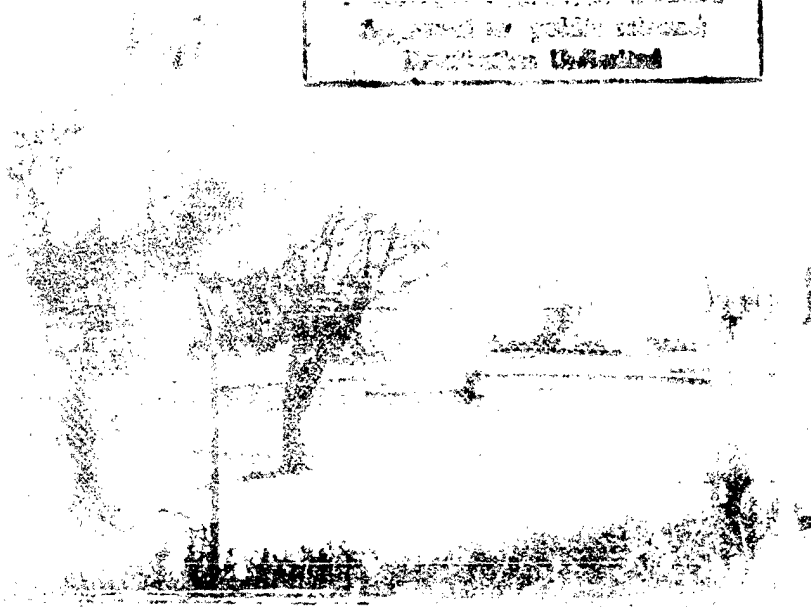
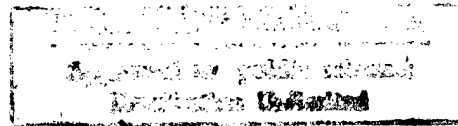


UNITED STATES MARINE CORPS

DRAFT

SUPPLEMENTAL ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT STATEMENT

**SEWAGE EFFLUENT COMPLIANCE PROJECT  
LOWER SANTA MARGARITA BASIN  
MARINE CORPS BASE CAMP PENDLETON  
SAN DIEGO COUNTY, CALIFORNIA**



SEPTEMBER 1998

19980916 043



DEPARTMENT OF THE NAVY  
SOUTHWEST DIVISION  
NAVAL FACILITIES ENGINEERING COMMAND  
1220 PACIFIC HIGHWAY  
SAN DIEGO, CA 92132-5190

11000  
Ser 533.VT/782  
September 9, 1998

Ladies and Gentlemen:

Enclosed is one copy of the *Draft Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement (SEIS), Sewage Effluent Compliance Project, Lower Santa Margarita Basin, Marine Corps Base, Camp Pendleton, San Diego County, California*. This document is provided for your review and comments.

The Notice of Availability of this document will appear in the Federal Register on September 11, 1998. Our point of contact is Ms. Vicky Taylor, who may be reached at (619) 532-3007. Please provide your comments in writing to Ms. Taylor by October 26, 1998 at the following address:

Southwest Division, Naval Facilities Engineering Command  
Attn: Ms. Vicky Taylor, Code 533.VT  
1220 Pacific Hwy.  
San Diego, CA 92132-5190  
Fax: (619) 532-2381

Sincerely,

VICKY K. TAYLOR  
By direction

Encl:  
(1) Draft SEIS (1 copy)

Copy to: (w/o encl)  
Commanding General, Marine Corps Base, AC/S, Public Works Office, Box 555013  
Attn: Code 40, Camp Pendleton, CA 92055-5013

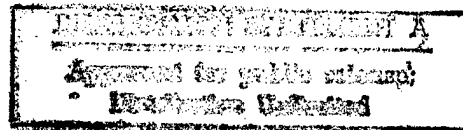
Commanding General, Marine Corps Base, AC/S Environmental Security, Bldg# 22165,  
Attn: Dr. Richard Kramer, P. O. Box 555008, Camp Pendleton, CA 92055-5013

*United States Marine Corps*

*Draft*

*Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement*

**Sewage Effluent Compliance Project  
Lower Santa Margarita Basin  
Marine Corps Base Camp Pendleton  
San Diego County, California**



**September 1998**

**September 1998**

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*Draft Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement*

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**Sewage Effluent Compliance Project  
Lower Santa Margarita Basin  
Marine Corps Base Camp Pendleton**

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**ABSTRACT**

The purpose of the Proposed Action is to secure sewage effluent discharge compliance with the Cease and Desist Order issued by the San Diego Regional Water Quality Control Board (RWQCB) at existing Sewage Treatment Plants (STPs) 1, 2, 3, 8, and 13 within the Lower Santa Margarita Basin. Compliance with the Cease and Desist Order would in turn allow for compliance with the San Diego Water Quality Control Plan (Basin Plan), thereby enhancing water quality within the Basin and providing long-term protection of the aquifer at Marine Corps Base (MCB) Camp Pendleton. The portion of the Proposed Action analyzed in the Final Environmental Impact Statement/Report (FEIS/R) and approved in the Record of Decision involves the construction of new facilities to convey sewage from the STPs downstream through a system of pumps and pipelines to percolation ponds in the Lemon Grove area of MCB Camp Pendleton. The ultimate disposal of the effluent, which may include advanced treatment, is considered in detail in this Draft Supplementary Environmental Impact Statement (SEIS). Alternative 1 would provide facilities for percolation of the total volume of effluent by enhancement of the Lemon Grove ponds with vertical drains of sand and gravel. Alternative 2 would add advanced wastewater treatment of effluent from STPs 1 and 2, with live-stream discharge of that effluent at the Ysidora Flats section of the Santa Margarita River. The effluent from STPs 3, 8 and 13 would be disposed at the Lemon Grove ponds with vertical drains. Alternative 3 would provide tertiary treatment and nutrient removal for STP 13 effluent, blending with secondary effluent from STPs 1, 2, 3, and 8, with discharge at the Ysidora Flats section of the Santa Margarita River. Alternative 4 would provide advanced wastewater treatment facilities for disposal of the total volume of effluent by gravity injection wells at the Lemon Grove ponds. Alternative 5 would provide advanced wastewater treatment for all effluent for use in the irrigation of existing on-Base leased agricultural lands, with the excess disposed by injection wells at the Lemon Grove ponds. The impacts evaluated in this SEIS are Hydrology and Water Quality, Cultural Resources, Biological Resources, Public Health and Safety, Socioeconomics, Environmental Justice, Geology and Soils, Air Quality, Land Use, Noise, Transportation and Vehicular Circulation Visual Resources, and Utilities.

*Prepared by:*

Commanding General  
United States Marine Corps  
Marine Corps Base Camp Pendleton  
San Diego County, California



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## **SUMMARY**

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## SUMMARY

This Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement (SEIS) was prepared to evaluate the potential environmental impacts of proposed alternative actions developed to dispose of sewage effluent in the Lower Santa Margarita Basin at Marine Corps Base (MCB) Camp Pendleton, California in compliance with orders and requirements of the San Diego Regional Water Quality Control Board (RWQCB) and other cognizant agencies.

This document is a supplement to the *Final Environmental Impact Statement/Report, Sewage Effluent Compliance Project, Lower Santa Margarita Basin, Marine Corps Base Camp Pendleton, San Diego County, California, April 1997*, hereafter referred to as the FEIS/R. On August 26, 1997, the Department of the Navy announced its decision to upgrade the wastewater treatment and disposal systems in the Santa Margarita Basin of MCB Camp Pendleton. This project was initiated in response to a Cease and Desist Order issued to MCB Camp Pendleton by the San Diego RWQCB. Effluent discharged did not meet California State water quality standards. The new facilities to be constructed included a new 22 acre percolation basin in the Lemon Grove area of MCB Camp Pendleton and pipeline to connect five existing sewage treatment plants (STP). During dry periods, all effluent was to be disposed via the new percolation basin. During wet periods, most of the effluent was to be disposed in the new percolation basin; some flows, though, would be disposed via the City of Oceanside La Salina ocean outfall. On September 3, 1997, the City of Oceanside decided to deny the Marine Corps use of the La Salina ocean outfall. The need for the Lemon Grove percolation basin and connecting pipelines to the STPs still existed. The Department of the Navy commenced with construction activities. Specifically, construction of 82,000 feet of pipeline to connect the five STPs and the new Lemon Grove percolation pond was initiated. However, a new solution was required for disposal of flows that were to be accommodated by the La Salina ocean outfall. Accordingly, the Marine Corps began to explore options for disposal of this flow.

### **PURPOSE AND NEED**

The purpose of this SEIS is to evaluate alternatives for final disposal methods of sewage effluent in order to comply with the RWQCB Cease and Desist Orders by the May, 1999 deadline. The FEIS/R ROD of August 26, 1997, (see Appendix D), selected the City of Oceanside outfall as the final disposal method. Subsequent to the FEIS/R ROD, the City of Oceanside denied the Marine Corps' use of the excess capacity of their outfall.

In accordance with the ROD, construction of the 22 acre wastewater discharge percolation/equalization Lemon Grove ponds and approximately 82,000 lineal feet of pipelines to connect these ponds and STP 1, 2, 3, 8, and 13 have been completed. The portion of the ROD,

which was not implemented, was the installation of approximately 16,000 lineal feet of connecting pipeline to the City of Oceanside's outfall.

## **PROJECT LOCATION**

The proposed action is located within portions of the Lower Santa Margarita and San Luis Rey Basins, and wholly within MCB Camp Pendleton, San Diego County, California. The areas of study for this SEIS include the Lemon Grove/STP 13, Ysidora Flats and STP 2 areas of MCB Camp Pendleton (Figure 1-2).

## **ALTERNATIVES CONSIDERED/PREFERRED ALTERNATIVE**

Three broad categories of sewage effluent disposal alternatives were considered: ocean disposal, surface and groundwater disposal, and land disposal. Ocean disposal would include the discharge of effluent directly into ocean waters via an ocean outfall or surf discharge; surface and groundwater disposal would involve the discharge of effluent directly or indirectly into rivers and floodplains, lakes, streams, and groundwater aquifers; and land disposal would involve the discharge of treated effluent to the land, including irrigation of landscaping, recreational areas, and agriculture. In addition, the No Action Alternative was evaluated. Each alternative was evaluated in terms of engineering issues, environmental issues, permitting requirements and the constraints of military project funding and contracting.

In addition to new alternatives, alternatives that had been considered and rejected for the FEIS/R were reexamined, as well as new locations for effluent percolation ponds. With one exception, alternatives that would result in many years of delay in compliance because of the need for extensive studies and new funding from the Military Construction (MCON) program were eliminated as not meeting the Purpose and Need of the project. Alternative 3 was developed in response to comments received from federal and state agencies and private parties who encouraged the upstream reuse of treated effluent as a preferable alternative to discharge near or in the ocean. Upstream reuse is also consistent with the long-term goals of MCB Camp Pendleton. Based upon an analysis of the additional costs to achieve nutrient removal in conjunction with tertiary treatment of the effluent from STP 13 included in Alternative 3, this alternative cannot be accomplished within the level of funding Congress has authorized to construct this project. This alternative was retained for detailed analysis to further investigate the concept of upstream effluent use and its viability for future implementation. Alternative 2, which would provide upstream reuse to a lesser degree than Alternative 3, was developed. Alternative 2 would be feasible with current funding, and has been designated the Preferred Alternative.

All six alternatives carried through for detailed analysis in this SEIS, including the No Action Alternative, provide for utilization of the existing percolation/equalization Lemon Grove ponds and pipelines. The

basic parameters of each alternative are summarized in Table S-1. The maximum flow of effluent from STPs 1, 2, 3, 8, and 13 during the rainy season would be approximately 4.4 MGD. The capacity of STP 1 is 0.56 MGD, STP 2 is 0.35 MGD, STP 3 is 0.51 MGD, STP 8 is 0.10 MGD and STP 13 is 2.83 MGD. Effluent from STPs 1 and 2 is primarily used to irrigate the Marine Memorial Golf Course. That portion of effluent not used for this irrigation would be conveyed to the existing Lemon Grove Ponds.

**Table S-1**  
**Alternatives Considered in Detail**

Alternative	Phase	STP	Design Flow	Treatment Level	Disposal Site	Disposal Method	Construction Time	Compliance with Cease & Desist Order
1	1	1, 2, 3, 8, 13	4.4 MGD	Secondary	Lemon Grove ponds	Vertical drains	6 months	Yes
2	1	1, 2, 3, 8, 13	4.4 MGD	Secondary	Lemon Grove ponds	Vertical drains	6 months	Yes
	2	1, 2	0.9 MGD	AWT	Base golf course and Ysidora Flats	Irrigation and Live stream discharge	15 months	
		3, 8, 13	3.4 MGD	Secondary	Lemon Grove ponds	Vertical drains		
3	1	13	2.8 MGD	Tertiary (Nutrient removal)	Ysidora Flats	Blended for Live stream discharge	24 months	No
		1, 2, 3, 8	1.5 MGD	Secondary				
4	1	1, 2, 3, 8, 13	4.4 MGD	AWT	Lemon Grove ponds	Gravity injection wells	18 months	No
5	1	1, 2, 3, 8, 13	4.4 MGD	AWT	On-Base agriculture fields and Lemon Grove ponds	Crop irrigation and Gravity injection wells (excess only)	20 months	No

**Alternative 1: Discharge of Secondary Effluent at Lemon Grove in Percolation Ponds with Vertical Drains**

With implementation of Alternative 1, the total effluent from STPs 1, 2, 3, 8, and 13, (4.4 MGD) would be conveyed to the Lemon Grove ponds, which were previously constructed per the FEIS/R ROD. Vertical drains would be constructed within the Lemon Grove ponds to enhance percolation. Without these drains, there would be inadequate percolation capacity for the total effluent. Design and construction of Alternative 1 would take approximately six months, with the system being operational in the year 1999. Therefore, this alternative would achieve compliance with the RWQCB Cease and Desist Orders by the May, 1999 deadline.

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**Alternative 2: Discharge of Secondary Effluent at Lemon Grove in Percolation Ponds with Vertical Drains plus Advanced Wastewater Treatment and Reclamation of a Portion of the Effluent (Preferred Alternative)**

Alternative 2 would be implemented in two phases. With implementation of Phase 1, the total effluent from STPs 1, 2, 3, 8, and 13, (4.4 MGD), would be conveyed to the Lemon Grove ponds, which were previously constructed per the FEIS/R ROD. Vertical drains would be constructed within the Lemon Grove ponds to enhance percolation. Design and construction of Phase 1 would take approximately six months, with the system being operational in the year 1999. Therefore, this alternative would achieve compliance with the RWQCB Cease and Desist Orders by the May, 1999 deadline.

Phase 2 would add a system for advanced wastewater treatment<sup>1</sup> of the effluent from STPs 1 and 2 (0.9 MGD). The secondary effluent from STPs 3, 8 and 13 (3.4 MGD) would be conveyed to the Lemon Grove Ponds, which were previously constructed per the FEIS/R ROD. The treated effluent from STPs 1 and 2 would be used to irrigate the Marine Memorial Golf Course, with the unused portion discharged in the Ysidora Flats area of the Santa Margarita River. Design and construction of Phase 2 of Alternative 2 would take approximately 15 months, with the system being operational in the year 2000.

**Alternative 3: Tertiary Treated Effluent Blended with Secondary Effluent for Groundwater Recharge at Ysidora Flats**

With implementation of Alternative 3, a tertiary treatment<sup>2</sup> facility would be constructed at STP 13. The treated effluent from STP 13 (2.8 MGD) would be pumped to the Ysidora Flats area, and combined with the remainder of secondary effluent from STPs 1 and 2, after irrigation of the Marine Memorial Golf Course, plus the secondary effluent from STPs 3 and 8 (1.5 MGD). The blended effluent from all five STPs (4.4 MGD) would be discharged into the Santa Margarita River at Ysidora Flats. The Lemon Grove ponds, which were previously constructed per the FEIS/R ROD, would be used for percolating 0.4 MGD of tertiary treated effluent from STP 13. Design and construction of Alternative 3 would take approximately 24 months. Therefore, this alternative would not achieve compliance with the RWQCB Cease and Desist Orders' deadline of May, 1999. Also, the tertiary treatment of effluent from STP 13, could not be accomplished within the funding limits authorized

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<sup>1</sup> The advanced treatment for effluent from STPs 1 and 2 is secondary treatment plus removal of particulate matter and chlorination, without nutrient removal.

<sup>2</sup> The tertiary treatment for STP 13 would include filtration, nutrient removal, and chlorination. Nitrogen and phosphorous would be reduced by biological processes.

authorized by Congress for this project. Therefore, this alternative would require additional Congressional funding. This alternative would be operational in the year 2004.

#### **Alternative 4: Advanced Wastewater Treatment and Discharge in Cased Wells at Lemon Grove**

With implementation of Alternative 4, the total effluent from STPs 1, 2, 3, 8, and 13 (4.4 MGD) would be conveyed to STP 13 for advanced wastewater treatment<sup>3</sup>, and then to the previously constructed Lemon Grove ponds for disposal. The treated effluent would be conveyed to the water table through cased, gravity injection wells in the Lemon Grove ponds. Design and construction of Alternative 4 would take approximately 18 months, with the system being operational in the year 2000. Therefore, this alternative would not achieve compliance with the RWQCB's May, 1999 deadline of the Board's Cease and Desist Orders.

#### **Alternative 5: Advanced Wastewater Treatment with Irrigation of Agricultural Fields and Discharge in Cased Wells**

With implementation of Alternative 5, a system for advanced wastewater treatment<sup>4</sup> would be constructed at STP 13. The total effluent from STPs 1, 2, 3, 8, and 13, (4.4 MGD) would be conveyed to STP 13 for treatment. This treated effluent would be conveyed to on-Base agricultural fields for crop irrigation. The agricultural fields are currently being irrigated with potable water. Cased wells would be constructed in the Lemon Grove ponds for discharge of advanced treated effluent in excess of irrigation needs. Design and construction of Alternative 5 would take approximately 20 months, with the system being operational in year 2000. Consequently, this alternative would not achieve compliance with the RWQCB's May, 1999 deadline of the Board's Cease and Desist Orders.

A pilot field study, to be conducted during the summer of 1998, will provide data for groundwater modeling studies. The study will refine estimates of the percolation capacity of the ponds and vertical drains. It will also examine the potential for lateral groundwater seepage of effluent to surface at the river bluff face, a phenomenon called "daylighting." The data can also be used to predict future water quality and water table elevation for one or more of the alternatives. To assure long term protection of the aquifers in the Lower Santa Margarita Basin and coastal waters, the

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<sup>3</sup> See footnote 1.

<sup>4</sup> See footnote 1

model will define the influence and boundary of discharge into the basin. The model will also address potential effects of nutrients on adjacent ocean water quality.

## **SUMMARY OF ADVERSE IMPACTS AND MITIGATION MEASURES CONSIDERED**

For each of the five alternatives and the No Action Alternative, potential environmental impacts to the following resources are evaluated in this SEIS: Hydrology and Water Quality, Cultural Resources, Biological Resources, Public Health and Safety, Socioeconomics, Environmental Justice/Protection of Children, Geology and Soils, Air Quality, Land Use, Noise, Transportation and Vehicular Circulation, Visual Resources, and Utilities.

Table S-2, beginning on page S-8, provides a summary of the potentially significant environmental impacts and associated mitigation measures by resource area for each of the alternatives. A detailed discussion of the environmental impacts and associated mitigation measures is provided in Section 4 of this SEIS.

## **FEDERAL, STATE, AND LOCAL AGENCIES FROM WHOM COMMENTS HAVE BEEN REQUESTED**

Comments on the Draft SEIS have been requested from the following federal, state, and local agencies, Native American groups, and members of the public:

- U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
- U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
- U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
- California Water Resources Control Board
- California Coastal Commission
- California Department of Fish and Game
- California Department of Health Services
- California Department of Transportation
- California Department of Parks and Recreation
- California State Historic Preservation Office
- California Office of Planning and Research
- County of San Diego Department of Environmental Health
- County of San Diego Department of Planning and Land Use
- San Diego Air Pollution Control District
- San Diego Association of Governments

- San Diego Gas & Electric Company
- San Diego Regional Water Quality Control Board

This Draft SEIS was made available to the public on September 11, 1998. Comments on this Draft SEIS should be forwarded prior to October 26, 1998 to:

Southwest Division, Naval Facilities Engineering Command  
Attn: Ms. Vicky Taylor, Code 533.VT  
1220 Pacific Highway  
San Diego, CA 92132-5190

**Table S-2**  
**Summary of Impacts and Mitigation Measures**

Alternative 1	Alternative 2	Alternative 3	Alternative 4	Alternative 5	No Action
<b>Hydrology and Water Quality</b>					
<u>Significant Impacts:</u> No significant impacts to hydrology or water quality were identified.	<u>Significant Impacts:</u> Potential significant impacts to surface and ground water from effluent discharges in the Ysidora Flats area.	<u>Significant Impacts:</u> Potential significant impacts to surface and ground water from effluent discharges in the Ysidora Flats area.  Potential significant impacts from loss of discharge system in flood plain.	<u>Significant Impacts:</u> No significant impacts to hydrology or water quality were identified.	<u>Significant Impacts:</u> No significant impacts to hydrology or water quality were identified.	<u>Significant Impacts:</u> The discharge of secondary effluent at Lemon Grove would not comply with the Cease and Desist Order, and there would be a significant adverse impact.
<u>Mitigation Measures:</u> No mitigation would be required.	<u>Mitigation Measures:</u> The discharge of tertiary treated effluent to the Santa Margarita River at Ysidora Flats shall be designed and implemented as allowed in an appropriate NPDES permit. A monitoring plan for effluent discharge would be implemented.	<u>Mitigation Measures:</u> The discharge of tertiary treated effluent to the Santa Margarita River at Ysidora Flats shall be designed and implemented as prescribed in an NPDES permit.  Marine Corps to provide spare parts for the discharge system to enable damaged system to be replaced within 30 days of the loss of the system.	<u>Mitigation Measures:</u> No mitigation would be required.	<u>Mitigation Measures:</u> No mitigation would be required.	<u>Mitigation Measures:</u> Implement Alternative 1, 2, 3, 4 or 5, or a combination thereof.
<b>Cultural Resources</b>					
<u>Significant Impacts:</u> No significant impacts to cultural resources were identified.	<u>Significant Impacts:</u> No significant impacts to cultural resources were identified.	<u>Significant Impacts:</u> Potential cultural resources impacts along the pipeline route from STP 13 to Ysidora Flats.	<u>Significant Impacts:</u> No significant impacts to cultural resources were identified.	<u>Significant Impacts:</u> Potential cultural resources impacts along the pipeline route from the AWT area to the irrigation reservoirs.	<u>Significant Impacts:</u> No significant impacts to cultural resources were identified.
<u>Mitigation Measures:</u> No mitigation would be required.	<u>Mitigation Measures:</u> No mitigation would be required.	<u>Mitigation Measures:</u> A cultural resources testing and monitoring program would be conducted prior to the installation of pipeline along the corridor from STP 13 to Ysidora Flats.	<u>Mitigation Measures:</u> No mitigation would be required.	<u>Mitigation Measures:</u> An archaeological monitor and construction monitoring plan would be provided.	<u>Mitigation Measures:</u> No mitigation would be required.
<b>Biological Resources</b>					



Alternative 1	Alternative 2	Alternative 3	Alternative 4	Alternative 5	No Action
<p><u>Significant Impacts:</u> Significant short-term construction impacts identified in FEIS/R.</p>	<p><u>Significant Impacts:</u> Significant short-term construction impacts identified in FEIS/R.</p> <p>Potential nitrogen and phosphorous loading from effluent discharge.</p> <p>Effluent discharge could scour existing mitigation site and replace emerging riparian wetland with freshwater marsh.</p>	<p><u>Significant Impacts:</u> Short-term construction impacts as identified in the FEIS/R.</p> <p>Increased nutrient loading could impact BRAC/Levee mitigation area at Ysidora Flats.</p> <p>Effluent discharge could scour existing mitigation site and replace emerging riparian wetland with freshwater marsh.</p>	<p><u>Significant Impacts:</u> Short-term construction impacts as identified in the FEIS/R.</p>	<p><u>Significant Impacts:</u> Short-term construction impacts as identified in the FEIS/R.</p>	<p><u>Significant Impacts:</u> The discharge of secondary effluent at Lemon Grove would not comply with the Cease and Desist Order, and there would be a significant adverse impact.</p>
<p><u>Mitigation Measures:</u> Best Management Practices (BMPs) to be applied to construction activities. Construction scheduled for non-breeding seasons of coastal California gnatcatcher, least Bell's vireo and southwestern willow flycatcher.</p>	<p><u>Mitigation Measures:</u> BMPs to be applied to construction activities.</p> <p>The effluent discharge shall be designed and implemented as allowed in an appropriate NPDES Permit. A monitoring plan would be implemented.</p> <p>Discharge would be designed and monitored in accordance with the Biological Opinion for Programmatic Activities in Riparian and Estuarine/Beach Ecosystems on Camp Pendleton (USFWS 1995a).</p>	<p><u>Mitigation Measures:</u> BMPs to be applied to construction activities.</p> <p>The effluent discharge shall be designed and implemented as allowed in an appropriate NPDES Permit. A monitoring plan would be implemented.</p> <p>Discharge would be designed and monitored in accordance with the Biological Opinion for Programmatic Activities in Riparian and Estuarine/Beach Ecosystems on Camp Pendleton (USFWS 1995a).</p>	<p><u>Mitigation Measures:</u> BMPs to be applied to construction activities.</p>	<p><u>Mitigation Measures:</u> BMPs to be applied to construction activities.</p>	<p><u>Mitigation Measures:</u> Implement Alternative 1, 2, 3, 4 or 5, or a combination thereof.</p>

Alternative 1	Alternative 2	Alternative 3	Alternative 4	Alternative 5	No Action
<b>Public Health and Safety</b>					
<u>Significant Impacts:</u> Significant short-term construction hazards were identified in FEIS/R.	<u>Significant Impacts:</u> Significant short-term construction hazards were identified in FEIS/R.	<u>Significant Impacts:</u> Significant short-term construction hazards were identified in FEIS/R.	<u>Significant Impacts:</u> Significant short-term construction hazards and equalization pond safety hazard.	<u>Significant Impacts:</u> Significant short-term construction hazards and equalization pond safety hazard.	<u>Significant Impacts:</u> Potential impact of secondary effluent discharge upstream of potable water wells.
<u>Mitigation Measures:</u> Safety fencing and BMPs would be implemented per FEIS/R.	<u>Mitigation Measures:</u> Safety fencing and BMPs would be implemented per FEIS/R.	<u>Mitigation Measures:</u> Safety fencing and BMPs would be implemented per FEIS/R.	<u>Mitigation Measures:</u> Safety fencing and BMPs plus permanent fencing at equalization ponds.	<u>Mitigation Measures:</u> Safety fencing and BMPs plus permanent fencing at equalization ponds.  Post multi-lingual signs, implement public relations program.	<u>Mitigation Measures:</u> Safety fencing and BMPs would be implemented per FEIS/R.
<b>Socioeconomics</b>					
<u>Significant Impacts:</u> No significant impacts were identified.	<u>Significant Impacts:</u> No significant impacts were identified.	<u>Significant Impacts:</u> No significant impacts were identified.	<u>Significant Impacts:</u> No significant impacts were identified.	<u>Significant Impacts:</u> No significant impacts were identified.	<u>Significant Impacts:</u> No significant impacts were identified.
<u>Mitigation Measures:</u> No mitigation would be required.	<u>Mitigation Measures:</u> No mitigation would be required.	<u>Mitigation Measures:</u> No mitigation would be required.	<u>Mitigation Measures:</u> No mitigation would be required.	<u>Mitigation Measures:</u> No mitigation would be required.	<u>Mitigation Measures:</u> No mitigation would be required.
<b>Environmental Justice/ Protection of Children</b>					
<u>Significant Impacts:</u> Construction impacts are the same as identified for Public Health and Safety.	<u>Significant Impacts:</u> Construction impacts are the same as identified for Public Health and Safety.	<u>Significant Impacts:</u> Construction impacts are the same as identified for Public Health and Safety.	<u>Significant Impacts:</u> Construction impacts are the same as identified for Public Health and Safety.	<u>Significant Impacts:</u> Construction impacts are the same as identified for Public Health and Safety.	<u>Significant Impacts:</u> No significant impacts were identified.
<u>Mitigation Measures:</u> BMPs as required for mitigation of Public Health and Safety impacts.	<u>Mitigation Measures:</u> BMPs as required for mitigation of Public Health and Safety impacts.	<u>Mitigation Measures:</u> BMPs as required for mitigation of Public Health and Safety impacts.	<u>Mitigation Measures:</u> BMPs as required for mitigation of Public Health and Safety impacts.	<u>Mitigation Measures:</u> BMPs as required for mitigation of Public Health and Safety impacts.	<u>Mitigation Measures:</u> No mitigation would be required.

Alternative 1	Alternative 2	Alternative 3	Alternative 4	Alternative 5	No Action
<b>Geology and Soils</b>					
<u>Significant Impacts:</u> Potential significant impacts regarding paleontological resources, as some project features may be underlain by sandstone and claystone sedimentary formations which possess a moderate to high paleontological resource sensitivity.	<u>Significant Impacts:</u> Potential significant impacts regarding paleontological resources, as some project features may be underlain by sandstone and claystone sedimentary formations which possess a moderate to high paleontological resource sensitivity.	<u>Significant Impacts:</u> Potential significant impacts regarding paleontological resources, as some project features may be underlain by sandstone and claystone sedimentary formations which possess a moderate to high paleontological resource sensitivity.	<u>Significant Impacts:</u> Potential significant impacts regarding paleontological resources, as some project features may be underlain by sandstone and claystone sedimentary formations which possess a moderate to high paleontological resource sensitivity.	<u>Significant Impacts:</u> Potential significant impacts regarding paleontological resources, as some project features may be underlain by sandstone and claystone sedimentary formations which possess a moderate to high paleontological resource sensitivity.	<u>Significant Impacts:</u> No impacts would occur.
<u>Mitigation Measures:</u> Presence of environmental monitors during construction.	<u>Mitigation Measures:</u> Presence of environmental monitors during construction.	<u>Mitigation Measures:</u> Presence of environmental monitors during construction.	<u>Mitigation Measures:</u> Presence of environmental monitors during construction.	<u>Mitigation Measures:</u> Presence of environmental monitors during construction.	<u>Mitigation Measures:</u> None required.
<b>Air Quality</b>					
<u>Significant Impacts:</u> No significant impacts were identified.	<u>Significant Impacts:</u> No significant impacts were identified.	<u>Significant Impacts:</u> No significant impacts were identified.	<u>Significant Impacts:</u> No significant impacts were identified.	<u>Significant Impacts:</u> No significant impacts were identified.	<u>Significant Impacts:</u> No significant impacts were identified.
<u>Mitigation Measures:</u> No mitigation would be required.	<u>Mitigation Measures:</u> No mitigation would be required.	<u>Mitigation Measures:</u> No mitigation would be required.	<u>Mitigation Measures:</u> No mitigation would be required.	<u>Mitigation Measures:</u> No mitigation would be required.	<u>Mitigation Measures:</u> No mitigation would be required.
<b>Land Use</b>					
<u>Significant Impacts:</u> No significant impacts were identified.	<u>Significant Impacts:</u> No significant impacts were identified.	<u>Significant Impacts:</u> No significant impacts were identified.	<u>Significant Impacts:</u> No significant impacts were identified.	<u>Significant Impacts:</u> No significant impacts were identified.	<u>Significant Impacts:</u> No significant impacts were identified.
<u>Mitigation Measures:</u> No mitigation would be required.	<u>Mitigation Measures:</u> No mitigation would be required.	<u>Mitigation Measures:</u> No mitigation would be required.	<u>Mitigation Measures:</u> No mitigation would be required.	<u>Mitigation Measures:</u> No mitigation would be required.	<u>Mitigation Measures:</u> No mitigation would be required.
<b>Noise</b>					
<u>Significant Impacts:</u> No significant impacts to humans were identified. Potential noise impacts to sensitive wildlife species.	<u>Significant Impacts:</u> No significant impacts to humans were identified. Potential noise impacts to sensitive wildlife species.	<u>Significant Impacts:</u> No significant impacts to humans were identified. Potential noise impacts to sensitive wildlife species.	<u>Significant Impacts:</u> No significant impacts to humans were identified. Potential noise impacts to sensitive wildlife species.	<u>Significant Impacts:</u> No significant impacts to humans were identified. Potential noise impacts to sensitive wildlife species.	<u>Significant Impacts:</u> No impacts would occur.
<u>Mitigation Measures:</u> Construction schedule limitations as specified for biological resources.	<u>Mitigation Measures:</u> Construction schedule limitations as specified for biological resources.	<u>Mitigation Measures:</u> Construction schedule limitations as specified for biological resources.	<u>Mitigation Measures:</u> Construction schedule limitations as specified for biological resources.	<u>Mitigation Measures:</u> Construction schedule limitations as specified for biological resources.	<u>Mitigation Measures:</u> None required.

Alternative 1	Alternative 2	Alternative 3	Alternative 4	Alternative 5	No Action
<b>Transportation and Vehicular Circulation</b>					
Significant Impacts: Impacts would be limited to traffic disturbances during construction.	Significant Impacts: Impacts would be limited to traffic disturbances during construction.	Significant Impacts: Impacts would be limited to traffic disturbances during construction, including some construction in or adjacent to roadways.	Significant Impacts: Impacts would be limited to traffic disturbances during construction.	Significant Impacts: Impacts would be limited to traffic disturbances during construction, including some construction in or adjacent to roadways.	Significant Impacts: No significant impacts were identified.
Mitigation Measures: No mitigation would be required.	Mitigation Measures: No mitigation would be required.	Mitigation Measures: Implement the traffic control plan identified in the FEIS/R to maintain access for vehicles and pedestrians.	Mitigation Measures: No mitigation would be required.	Mitigation Measures: Implement the traffic control plan identified in the FEIS/R to maintain access for vehicles and pedestrians.	Mitigation Measures: No mitigation would be required.
<b>Visual Resources</b>					
Significant Impacts: No significant impacts were identified.	Significant Impacts: No significant impacts were identified.	Significant Impacts: No significant impacts were identified.	Significant Impacts: No significant impacts were identified.	Significant Impacts: No significant impacts were identified.	Significant Impacts: No significant impacts were identified.
Mitigation Measures: No mitigation would be required.	Mitigation Measures: No mitigation would be required.	Mitigation Measures: No mitigation would be required.	Mitigation Measures: No mitigation would be required.	Mitigation Measures: No mitigation would be required.	Mitigation Measures: No mitigation would be required.
<b>Utilities</b>					
Significant Impacts: No significant impacts were identified.	Significant Impacts: No significant impacts were identified.	Significant Impacts: No significant impacts were identified.	Significant Impacts: No significant impacts were identified.	Significant Impacts: No significant impacts were identified.	Significant Impacts: No significant impacts were identified.
Mitigation Measures: No mitigation would be required.	Mitigation Measures: No mitigation would be required.	Mitigation Measures: No mitigation would be required.	Mitigation Measures: No mitigation would be required.	Mitigation Measures: No mitigation would be required.	Mitigation Measures: No mitigation would be required.

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**CHAPTER 1.0**  
**PURPOSE AND NEED**

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<b>1.1</b>	<b>Purpose and Need</b>	<b>1-1</b>
<b>1.2</b>	<b>Regulatory Authority</b>	<b>1-4</b>
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## 1.0 PURPOSE AND NEED

This Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement (SEIS) was prepared in compliance with the following laws, regulations of guidelines:

- National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) of 1969, as amended, 42 U.S.C. 4321;
- Council on Environmental Quality (CEQ) Regulations for Implementing the Procedural Provisions of NEPA (40 C.F.R. §§1500-1508);
- Marine Corps Order (MCO P5090.2), which establishes procedures for implementing NEPA; and
- Resource-specific regulatory guidelines presented in Appendix A of the original Final Environmental Impact Statement/Environmental Impact Report (FEIS/R) for this project.

NEPA requires consideration of environmental concerns in the decision-making process for major federal actions. CEQ regulations implement the "action forcing" provision of NEPA to ensure that federal agencies comply with the letter and spirit of the Act. MCO P5090.2 provides specific guidance for the United States Marine Corps in preparing environmental documentation for Marine Corps actions subject to NEPA.

This SEIS is a supplement to the *Final Environmental Impact Statement/Report, Sewage Effluent Compliance Project, Lower Santa Margarita Basin, Marine Corps Base Camp Pendleton, San Diego County, California, April 1997*, hereafter referred to as the FEIS/R. The FEIS/R included analysis in accordance with the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) for those portions of the proposed action that were to be located in the City of Oceanside, including disposal of secondarily treated effluent in the City's own outfall. The Oceanside City Council rejected implementation of the proposed project in the City. The revised proposed action would be located entirely within Marine Corps Base (MCB) Camp Pendleton. Therefore, a Supplemental Environmental Impact Report (SEIR) is not required, and the revised proposed action does not require any local approvals or certification in accordance with CEQA. Thus, only an SEIS, not an SEIR, has been prepared for the current proposed action.

### 1.1 PURPOSE AND NEED

The purpose of and need for the proposed action is to ensure that disposal of sewage effluent from Sewage Treatment Plants (STPs) 1, 2, 3, 8, and 13 in the Lower Santa Margarita Basin at MCB Camp Pendleton satisfies the following:

- (1) the Cease and Desist Orders and National Pollution Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) Permit (Order No. 94-51) issued by the San Diego Regional Water Quality Control Board (RWQCB), thereby meeting water quality standards contained in the 1975 Water Quality Control Plan for the San Diego Basin (Basin Plan), or an approved modification thereto;
- (2) statutory and regulatory requirements administered by agencies having jurisdiction over the Lower Santa Margarita Basin; and,
- (3) Base mission requirements.

### **1.1.1 Project Background**

Basewide, MCB Camp Pendleton currently collects, provides secondary treatment for, and disposes of treated wastewater through a system of nine STPs. STPs 1, 2, 3, 8, and 13 and associated facilities within the Lower Santa Margarita Basin<sup>1</sup> were constructed prior to 1960, which was prior to the enactment of the Clean Water Act of 1977 and the water quality standards established in the 1975 Basin Plan. The purpose of these water quality standards is to maintain water quality consistent with the beneficial uses of the Basin. Beneficial uses of water resources within the Basin include, but are not limited to, domestic, municipal, agricultural, and industrial supply; groundwater recharge; power generation; recreation; aesthetic enjoyment; navigation; and preservation and enhancement of fish, wildlife, and, other aquatic resources or preserves.

The sewage effluent discharged from STPs 1, 2, 3, 8, and 13 into the Santa Margarita River and flood plain is currently not in compliance with the water quality standards set forth in the current or any prior version of the Basin Plan (RWQCB 1994), and is in violation of the Waste Discharge Requirements (NPDES permits) issued by the RWQCB. RWQCB adopted waste discharge requirements/permits for STPs 1, 2, 3, 8, and 13 in May 1987 and all five permits were combined into one (Permit No. CA0108863, Order No. 94-51). The RWQCB Cease and Desist Orders were amended in 1991, 1994, and 1996, to set new milestone dates and interim effluent limits until compliance could be achieved. Table 1-1 shows the water quality standards or limitations for each constituent, as identified in the NPDES Permit No. 94-51 for STPs 1, 2, 3, 8, and 13.

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<sup>1</sup> STPs 1 and 2 are located in the San Luis Rey Basin, although they treat water supplied from the Lower Santa Margarita Basin and the effluent discharge point of STP 1 is in the Santa Margarita Basin. STP 2 effluent is used primarily to irrigate the Marine Memorial Golf Course, in the San Luis Rey Hydrologic Unit, as permitted under RWQCB Order No. 94-72. When not used on the golf course, effluent from STP 2 is discharged to the Santa Margarita Hydrologic Unit.



**Table 1-1**  
**Effluent Limit for STPs 1, 2, 3, 8, and 13**

Constituent	Units	30-Day Average	7-Day Average	Daily Maximum
Biochemical Oxygen Demand (BOD @ 20°C)	mg/L lbs/day	30 1,654	45 2,481	45 2,481
Total Suspended Solids	mg/L lbs/day	30 1,654	45 2,481	45 2,481
pH	pH units	Within the limits of 6.5 to 8.5 at all times		
Total Dissolved Solids (TDS)	mg/L lbs/day	750 41,345		850 46,858
Chloride	mg/L lbs/day	300 16,538		350 19,295
Percent Sodium	%	60		65
Sulfate	mg/L lbs/day	300 16,538		350 19,295
Total Nitrogen	mg/L lbs/day	1.0 55.1		2.0 110.2
Total Phosphorus	mg/L lbs/day	0.1 5.5		0.2 11.0
Iron	mg/L lbs/day	0.3 16.5		0.4 22.1
Manganese	mg/L lbs/day	0.05 2.76		0.06 3.31
Methylene Blue Active Substances	mg/L lbs/day	0.5 27.6		0.6 33.1
Boron	mg/L lbs/day	0.5 27.6		0.6 33.1
Turbidity	NTU	20		25
Color	Units	20		25
Fluoride	mg/L lbs/day	1.0 55.1		1.2 66.1
Fecal Coliform	MPN/100ml	200		400
Total Chlorine Residual	mg/L lbs/day	0.01 0.55		0.02 1.10
Dissolved Oxygen	mg/L	Not less than 5.0 at any time		
Acute Toxicity	TUa	No acute toxicity shall occur in undiluted effluent		
Chronic Toxicity	TUc			1.0

Source: RWQCB NPDES Permit No. 94-51

mg/L = milligrams per liter; lbs/day = pounds per day; NTU = turbidity units; MPN = most probable number;

TUa = acute toxicity units; TUc = chronic toxicity units

The majority of the constituents that have historically been in violation of the NPDES Permit have been brought into compliance by MCB Camp Pendleton through improved operation, minor plant modifications, and improved monitoring capabilities. However, compliance with the limitations for total dissolved solids (TDS), nitrogen, phosphorus, iron, and manganese cannot be achieved at the existing sewage treatment plants, because they were not designed for removal of these constituents. Therefore, compliance with the Cease and Desist Orders would require the modification of existing facilities or the construction of new facilities.

In addition to satisfying the Cease and Desist Orders, the proposed action must comply with applicable rules and regulations promulgated by federal agencies, including the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (USEPA), U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS), and the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACOE), as well as regional and state entities such as the RWQCB, State Water Resources Board, and California Department of Health Services (DHS). A discussion of the regulatory authority with which the proposed action must comply is presented in Section 1.2.

### **1.1.2 The FEIS/R**

A FEIS/R was prepared for the originally proposed project which included a system of pumps and piping that would deliver effluent from STPs 1, 2, 3, 8, and 13 to equalization/holding ponds and, ultimately, discharge at an existing ocean outfall owned by the City of Oceanside. Three alternatives were evaluated in the FEIS/R, each including an element of effluent or brine discharge through the ocean outfall. During final consideration of the proposed action, use of the ocean outfall was not approved by the City of Oceanside City Council. Consequently, MCB Camp Pendleton is proceeding with on-Base construction of the effluent collection and percolation pond elements of the disposal system described in the FEIS/R and Record of Decision (ROD). This SEIS analyzes alternative ways to provide sufficient disposal capacity on-Base without the use of Oceanside ocean outfall, and thus achieve compliance with the RWQCB Cease and Desist Orders.

## **1.2 REGULATORY AUTHORITY**

### **1.2.1 Water Quality Regulations**

Federal laws for control of water quality have been enacted to establish the requirements for adequate planning, implementation, management, and enforcement, including penalties for

non-compliance. In addition, federal and state regulations and plans have been developed to augment and clarify the laws and to provide details not included in the law.

Major federal and state laws regulating water quality on MCB Camp Pendleton are as follows:

- Federal Clean Water Act of 1977 (33 U.S.C. § 1251 (1994));
- Federal Safe Drinking Water Quality Act of 1974 (42 U.S.C. § 300f (1994));
- State of California Porter-Cologne Water Quality Act (Cal. Water code §§ 13000-13999.10);
- California Safe Drinking Water and Toxic Enforcement Act (1986); and
- Coastal Zone Management Act (16 C.F.R. § 1451 (1997))

These laws are described in the FEIS/R, Appendix A.

### **1.2.2 Regulatory Agencies**

#### **U.S. Environmental Protection Agency**

Congress has identified USEPA as the administrator for water pollution prevention, as identified in the Clean Water Act. Under the Clean Water Act, federal agencies must cooperate with state and local agencies to develop comprehensive solutions to prevent, reduce, and eliminate pollution. Both USEPA and RWQCB regulate water quality issues on MCB Camp Pendleton. USEPA also establishes and upgrades federal drinking water quality standards in accordance with the Federal Safe Drinking Water Quality Act of 1974 (as amended).

#### **U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service**

The USFWS administers the Endangered Species Act of 1973 (16 U.S.C. § 1531 (1994) as amended) (ESA). Where federal projects may impact listed or proposed threatened or endangered species, consultation with USFWS is required under Section 7 of the ESA. To quantify impacts to listed species, federal agencies prepare biological assessments (BA). The USFWS renders a biological opinion (BO), as to whether the proposed project will jeopardize the continued existence of the listed species or not. The USFWS may also provide input relative to the Clean Water Act, and other issues where federal permits are required.

### **U.S. Army Corps of Engineers**

The USACOE is the permitting agency for actions which may impact jurisdictional wetlands and “waters of the United States” as defined by Section 404 of the Clean Water Act (33 U.S.C. § 1344 (1994)). Certain minor actions that fill jurisdictional wetlands or waters of the U.S. may proceed under the rules for general “nationwide” permits. Otherwise, a specific, individual permit is required before an action may proceed.

### **San Diego Regional Water Quality Control Board**

The RWQCB regulates all discharges of wastewater to groundwater or surface waters through the issuance of discharge permits, enforcement orders, cleanup orders, and fines for non-compliance. Specifically, the RWQCB issues Waste Discharge Requirement permits and NPDES permits for discharge of treated wastewater into the ocean or inland surface waters or on land. Waste disposal requirements are established by the RWQCB for any entity discharging wastes into waters in the San Diego Basin, including MCB Camp Pendleton.

### **California Department of Health Services**

Within the State of California, the DHS has established drinking water standards that are at least as stringent as the federal standards. The DHS is the responsible agency that determines whether a water source influenced by effluent may be used as a potable water source. The DHS protects groundwater sources or potable water supplies through a series of guidelines which address treatment and recharge methods, the proximity of wells, and the aquifer characteristics.

### **San Diego County Department of Environmental Health**

The San Diego County Department of Environmental Health (DEH) administers health functions as delegated by DHS. These functions include, but are not limited to, recycled water programs and potable water well permitting.

### **California Coastal Commission**

The California Coastal Commission’s duties include the issuance of development permits in coastal areas, the encouragement of coastal access, regulation of port expansion, protection of coastal wetlands, and the prevention of offshore spills.

### 1.3 REQUIREMENTS OF THE PROPOSED ACTION

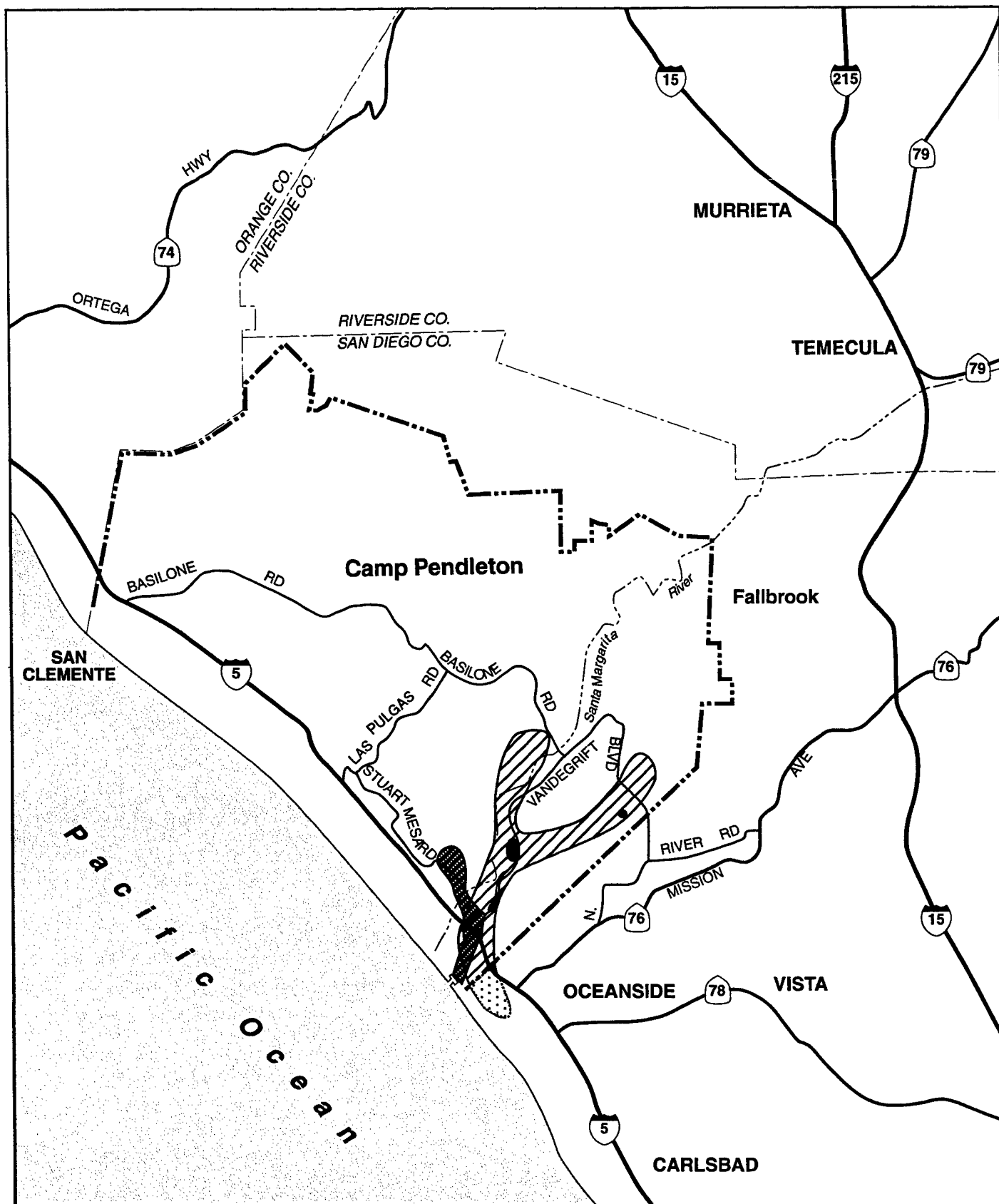
As discussed above, the purpose of and need for the proposed action is to satisfy both the Cease and Desist Orders and the statutes and regulations administered by the governing federal and state agencies, as well as maintain the Base mission. The goal of the proposed action would be to meet requirements and provide benefits as follows:

- comply with the May 1999 deadline for compliance with the RWQCB Cease and Desist Orders;
- comply with water quality standards including safe drinking water standards as identified in applicable federal and state statutes and regulations;
- comply with Section 404 of the Clean Water Act, in accordance with USACOE permitting procedures;
- comply with the Endangered Species Act, in accordance with USFWS requirements;
- maintain beneficial uses of the groundwater basins by preventing degradation of water quality;
- sustain the volume of groundwater in the Lower Santa Margarita Basin; and
- minimize salt water intrusion from the Pacific Ocean into the Lower Santa Margarita Basin.

### 1.4 PROJECT LOCATION

The proposed action is located wholly within MCB Camp Pendleton, which is located in the northwestern part of San Diego County, California. MCB Camp Pendleton is the Marine Corps amphibious training center for the west coast, and is comprised of a 200-square-mile area, with Orange County to the northwest, and Riverside County to the north and east. The Base is located 40 miles north of downtown San Diego and is bordered by the City of San Clemente to the north, the community of Fallbrook and the Cleveland National Forest to the east, and the City of Oceanside to the south. MCB Camp Pendleton's western-most boundary fronts approximately 18 miles of beaches and coastal bluffs. Regional access from the north and south is provided by Interstate 5 (I-5); eastern inland access is provided by Interstate 15 (I-15), and State Route 76 (SR-76) (Figures 1-1 and 1-2). The locations of specific components of the proposed action are described in Section 2 of this SEIS.





- Camp Pendleton Boundary
- FEIS/R Study Area
- SEIS Study Area
- No longer included in project

Figure 1-2

## Vicinity Map

## 1.5 MISSION OF MCB CAMP PENDLETON

MCB Camp Pendleton has a large land area that provides an extensive sea-land connection. The Base encompasses a wide variety of terrain, coast line with inland maneuver area, and restricted airspace overhead provides a unique opportunity for amphibious landings, attacking sea to land, and a full spectrum of training environments for the Marine Corps. The mild climate provides a year-round training base, making MCB Camp Pendleton a unique and valuable defense installation.

The types of training occurring at MCB Camp Pendleton include: over-the-ground maneuvers; tank and antitank maneuvers; weapons firing; aerial weapons delivery; organization of supply, fuel, and communication systems; airlifting of troops and supplies; reconnaissance; loading and unloading of ships and aircraft; tracked vehicle operation and maintenance; and field medical treatment.

## 1.6 SCOPING PROCESS

### 1.6.1 Issue Identification

CEQ (40 C.F.R. § 1502.9) and MCO P5090.2 require preparation of a SEIS if substantial changes are made in the proposed action that are relevant to environmental concerns. As defined in CEQ regulations, an EIS is a concise public document specifying anticipated impacts from an action for which a federal agency is responsible. The EIS must provide full and fair discussion of significant environmental impacts, and it must inform decision-makers and the public of reasonable alternatives that would avoid or minimize adverse impacts or enhance the quality of the human and natural environment. The EIS serves to ensure that the policies and goals defined in NEPA are integrated into the ongoing programs and actions of the federal government. Federal officials are required by NEPA to use the EIS to plan actions and make decisions.

NEPA regulations require an early and open process for determining the scope of issues to be addressed in an EIS. CEQ regulations exempt an SEIS from scoping requirements. CEQ regulation 40 C.F.R. § 1502 states, "... supplements shall be prepared, circulated, and filed in the same fashion as a DEIS or FEIS. However, scoping is not required."

Although scoping is not required for an SEIS, the Marine Corps published a *Notice of Intent to Prepare a Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement for the Sewage Effluent Compliance Project at Marine Corps Base Camp Pendleton, California* on February 4, 1998, and mailed the



notice to agencies and other parties on February 12, 1998. The Notice of Intent (NOI) invited agencies, organizations, and the general public to provide written comments relative to the proposed action and the issues to be addressed in the SEIS. The NOI and comments thereto are included in Appendix A.

The principal issues identified in the scoping of the FEIS/R related to change or loss of wetland habitat; damage or loss of coastal sage scrub habitat; disturbance or displacement of threatened or endangered species; and visual impacts of proposed percolation ponds.

### **1.6.2 Contents of this SEIS**

As described in Section 1.1.2 above, MCB Camp Pendleton is proceeding with on-Base construction of the effluent collection and percolation pond elements of the disposal system described in the FEIS/R. This SEIS analyzes alternative ways to provide additional and sufficient disposal capacity on-Base without the use of the Oceanside ocean outfall and to achieve compliance with the San Diego RWQCB Cease and Desist Orders. All alternatives discussed in this SEIS assume completion of construction of the pipelines and pump stations required to convey the secondary effluent from STPs 1, 2, 3, 8, and 13 to the 22-acre Lemon Grove Ponds, as described in the FEIS/R, and approved in the ROD. These project elements were not reanalyzed in this SEIS. As required by CEQ, 40 C.F.R. § 1502, impacts are discussed in proportion to their significance. The issues addressed in detail in this SEIS are limited to address changes from those discussed in the FEIS/R; much of the FEIS/R analysis is not repeated in this SEIS. The FEIS/R is incorporated by reference into this SEIS.

### **1.6.3 Use of this SEIS**

This Draft SEIS will be provided for review by: (1) the regulatory agencies and interested parties listed in the Summary; (2) those agencies and parties that commented on the NOI for this SEIS; (3) those agencies and parties that commented on the previous Draft and Final EIS/R; and (4) the general public. Comments received will be considered in evaluation of the proposed action and alternatives. Data from engineering and biological resource studies, as described in the Summary and Sections 2.2.1, will also be reviewed and evaluated. The results of the evaluation will be used in preparation of the Final SEIS. The Final SEIS will be utilized by the Marine Corps in preparing a ROD for the proposed action. The ROD will document which alternative was selected by the Marine Corps for compliance with the Cease and Desist Orders together with the reasons for its

## 1.0 Purpose and Need

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selection. In addition, the RWQCB will utilize both the FEIS/R and the SEIS in their review of the project to determine whether the selected alternative complies with the Cease and Desist Orders, whether effluent discharges are consistent with the objectives of the Basin Plan, and in the preparation of appropriate permits.

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## **CHAPTER 2.0**

### **ALTERNATIVES INCLUDING THE PROPOSED ACTION**

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<b>2.1</b>	<b>Background</b>	<b>2-1</b>
<b>2.2</b>	<b>Alternatives Considered in Detail/Preferred Alternative</b>	<b>2-5</b>
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## **2.0 ALTERNATIVES INCLUDING THE PROPOSED ACTION**

### **2.1 BACKGROUND**

NEPA requires consideration of alternatives that reasonably achieve the objectives of the purpose and need for the proposed action. As discussed in Section 1, the purpose of and need for the proposed action is to ensure that future disposal of sewage effluent from STPs 1, 2, 3, 8, and 13 in the Lower Santa Margarita Basin at MCB Camp Pendleton satisfies:

- (1) the Cease and Desist Orders and National Pollution Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) Permit (Order No. 94-51) issued by the San Diego Regional Water Quality Control Board (RWQCB), thereby meeting water quality standards contained in the 1975 San Diego Water Quality Control Plan (Basin Plan), or an approved modification thereto;
- (2) the statutory and regulatory requirements administered by agencies having jurisdictional authority over the Lower Santa Margarita Basin; and,
- (3) Base mission requirements.

#### **2.1.1 Selection of Alternatives**

On August 26, 1997, the Department of the Navy announced its decision to upgrade the wastewater treatment and disposal systems in the Santa Margarita Basin of MCB Camp Pendleton. This project was initiated in response to a Cease and Desist Order issued to MCB Camp Pendleton by the San Diego RWQCB. Effluent discharged did not meet California State water quality standards. The new facilities to be constructed included a new 22 acre percolation basin in the Lemon Grove area of MCB Camp Pendleton and pipeline to connect five existing sewage treatment plants (STP). During dry periods, all effluent was to be disposed via the new percolation basin. During wet periods, most of the effluent was to be disposed in the new percolation basin; some flows, though, would be disposed via the City of Oceanside La Salina ocean outfall. On September 3, 1997, the City of Oceanside decided to deny the Marine Corps use of the La Salina ocean outfall. The need for the Lemon Grove percolation basin and connecting pipelines to the STPs still existed. The Department of the Navy commenced with construction activities. Specifically, construction of 82,000 feet of pipeline to connect the five STPs and the new Lemon Grove percolation pond was initiated. However, a new solution was required for disposal of flows that were to be accommodated by the

La Salina ocean outfall. Accordingly, the Marine Corps began to explore options for disposal of this flow.

Prior to 1997 and in conjunction with the FEIS/R, a variety of sewage effluent disposal alternatives were evaluated to determine whether they could reasonably and feasibly satisfy the stated purpose and need for the proposed action. In the fall of 1997, following the City of Oceanside rejection of the proposal to dispose of MCB Camp Pendleton effluent in the City outfall, additional alternatives were studied. These studies included soils testing to identify potential sites for effluent percolation ponds. With these data, and in consideration of the time constraints of the Cease and Desist Orders, and the time and budgetary constraints of military construction funding, MCB Camp Pendleton completed a separate evaluation and report entitled *Marine Corps Base Camp Pendleton Alternative and Regulatory Analysis for Effluent Discharge* (Montgomery Watson 1998). Based on this alternative analysis, five action alternatives and the No Action Alternative were included for detailed analysis in this SEIS and are discussed in Section 2.2. Alternatives evaluated and rejected are described in Section 2.3.

All alternatives discussed in this SEIS assume completion of construction of the pipelines and pump stations required to convey the secondary effluent from STPs 1, 2, 3, 8, and 13 to the 22-acre Lemon Grove Ponds, as described in the FEIS/R, approved in the ROD, and under construction in 1998 (Figure 2-1).

In addition to new alternatives, alternatives that had been considered and rejected for the FEIS/R were reexamined, as well as new locations for effluent percolation ponds. With one exception, alternatives that would result in many years of delay in compliance because of the need for extensive studies and new funding from the Military Construction (MCON) program were eliminated as not meeting the Purpose and Need of the project. Alternative 3 was developed in response to comments received from federal and state agencies and private parties who encouraged the upstream reuse of treated effluent as a preferable alternative to discharge near or in the ocean. Upstream reuse is also consistent with the long-term goals of MCB Camp Pendleton. Based upon an analysis of the additional costs to achieve nutrient removal in conjunction with tertiary treatment of the effluent from STP 13 included in Alternative 3, this alternative cannot be accomplished within the level of funding Congress has authorized to construct this project. This alternative was retained for detailed analysis to further investigate the concept of upstream effluent use and its viability for future implementation. Alternative 2, which would provide upstream reuse to a lesser degree than Alternative 3, was developed. Alternative 2 would be feasible with current funding, and has been designated the Preferred Alternative.

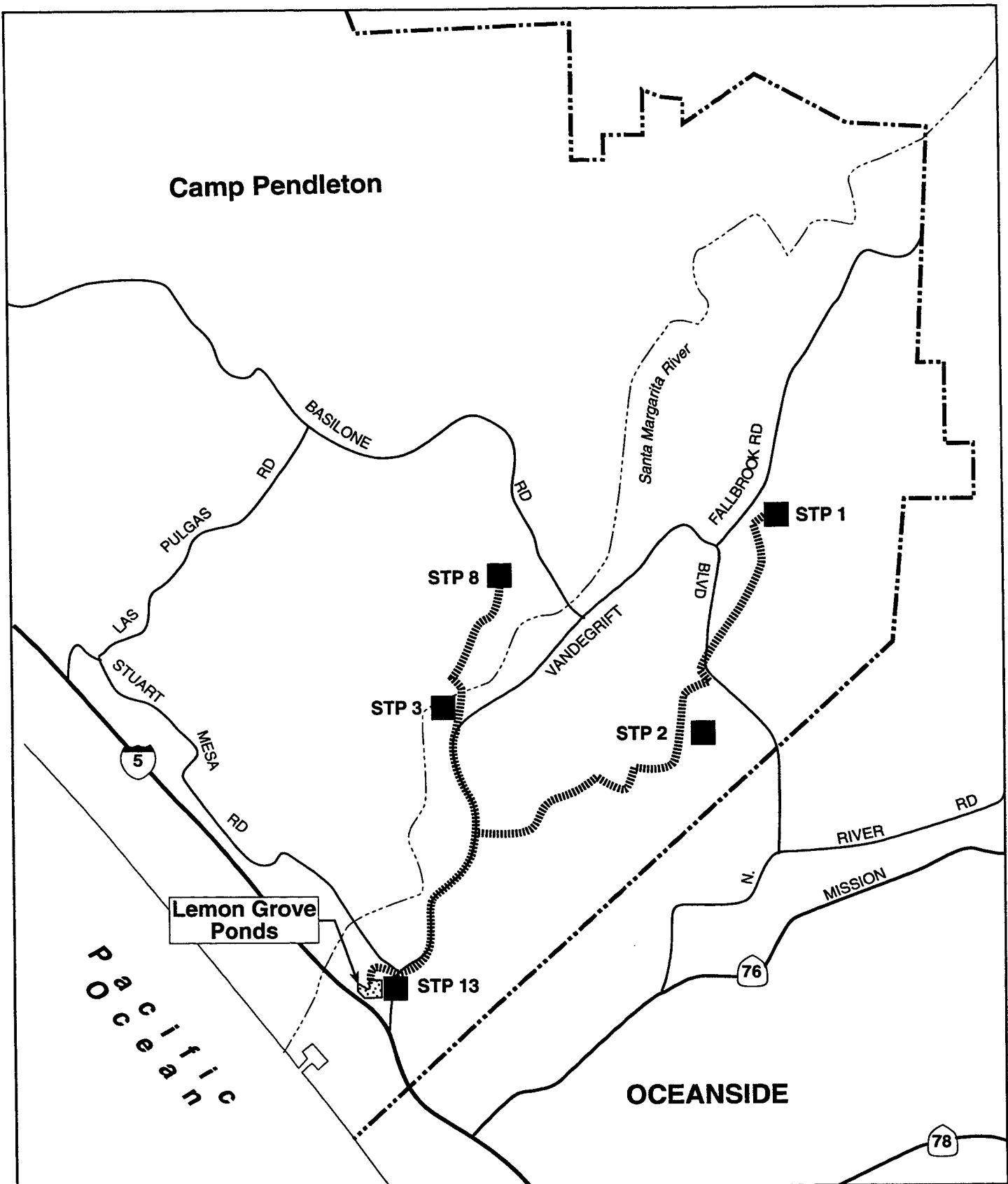
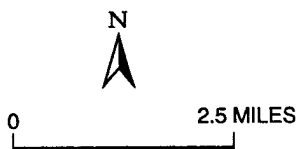


Figure 2-1  
Effluent Facilities  
Being Constructed  
(1998) per the ROD



### 2.1.2 Effluent Flow Projections

The alternatives evaluation included an update of existing and projected effluent volumes (Nolte 1998). Existing flows were revised based on data provided by improved instrumentation. Projected flows consider anticipated growth in Base facilities. The existing, projected, and design average daily effluent disposal volumes are shown in Table 2-1. The design flow for the proposed action would be 25 percent over the projected flow. The total design flow of 4.35 million gallons per day (MGD) shown in Table 2-1 is rounded to 4.4 MGD for purposes of further discussion in this SEIS.

**Table 2-1**  
**STP Average Daily Discharge Quantities**

STP	Discharge (MGD)		
	Existing	Projected	Design
1	0.40	0.45	0.56
2	0.28	0.28	0.35
3	0.40	0.41	0.51
8	0.08	0.08	0.10
13	2.00	2.26	2.83
<b>Total</b>	<b>3.16</b>	<b>3.48</b>	<b>4.35</b>

### 2.1.3 Pilot Test Basin Studies

A pilot field study, to be conducted during the summer of 1998, will provide data for groundwater modeling studies. The study will refine estimates of the percolation capacity of the ponds and vertical drains. It will also examine the potential for lateral groundwater seepage of effluent to surface at the river bluff face, a phenomenon called "daylighting." The data can also be used to predict future water quality and water table elevation for one or more of the alternatives. To assure long term protection of the aquifers in the Lower Santa Margarita Basin and coastal waters, the model will define the influence and boundary of discharge into the basin. The model will also address potential effects of nutrients on adjacent ocean water quality.



## **2.2 ALTERNATIVES CONSIDERED IN DETAIL/PREFERRED ALTERNATIVE**

The purpose of this SEIS is to evaluate alternatives for final disposal methods of sewage effluent in order to comply with the RWQCB Cease and Desist Orders by the May, 1999 deadline. The FEIS/R ROD of August 26, 1997, (see Appendix D), selected the City of Oceanside outfall as the final disposal method. Subsequent to the FEIS/R ROD, the City of Oceanside denied the Marine Corps' use of the excess capacity of their outfall.

In accordance with the ROD, construction of the 22 acre wastewater discharge percolation/equalization Lemon Grove ponds and approximately 82,000 lineal feet of pipelines to connect these ponds and STP 1, 2, 3, 8, and 13 have been completed. The portion of the ROD, which was not implemented, was the installation of approximately 16,000 lineal feet of connecting pipeline to the City of Oceanside's outfall.

All six alternatives carried through for detailed analysis in this SEIS, including the No Action Alternative, provide for utilization of the existing percolation/equalization Lemon Grove ponds and pipelines. The basic parameters of each alternative are summarized in Table 2-2. The maximum flow of effluent from STPs 1, 2, 3, 8, and 13 during the rainy season would be approximately 4.4 MGD. The capacity of STP 1 is 0.56 MGD, STP 2 is 0.35 MGD, STP 3 is 0.51 MGD, STP 8 is 0.10 MGD and STP 13 is 2.83 MGD. Effluent from STPs 1 and 2 is primarily used to irrigate the Marine Memorial Golf Course. That portion of effluent not used for this irrigation would be conveyed to the existing Lemon Grove Ponds.

**Table 2-2**  
**Alternatives Considered in Detail**

Alternative	Phase	STP	Design Flow	Treatment Level	Disposal Site	Disposal Method	Construction Time	Compliance with Cease & Desist Order
1	1	1, 2, 3, 8, 13	4.4 MGD	Secondary	Lemon Grove ponds	Vertical drains	6 months	Yes
2	1	1, 2, 3, 8, 13	4.4 MGD	Secondary	Lemon Grove ponds	Vertical drains	6 months	Yes
	2	1, 2	0.9 MGD	AWT	Base golf course and Ysidora Flats	Irrigation and Live stream discharge	15 months	
		3, 8, 13	3.4 MGD	Secondary	Lemon Grove ponds	Vertical drains		
3	1	13	2.8 MGD	Tertiary (Nutrient removal)	Ysidora Flats	Blended for Live stream discharge	24 months	No
		1, 2, 3, 8	1.5 MGD	Secondary				
4	1	1, 2, 3, 8, 13	4.4 MGD	AWT	Lemon Grove ponds	Gravity injection wells	18 months	No
5	1	1, 2, 3, 8, 13	4.4 MGD	AWT	On-Base agriculture fields and Lemon Grove ponds	Crop irrigation and Gravity injection wells (excess only)	20 months	No

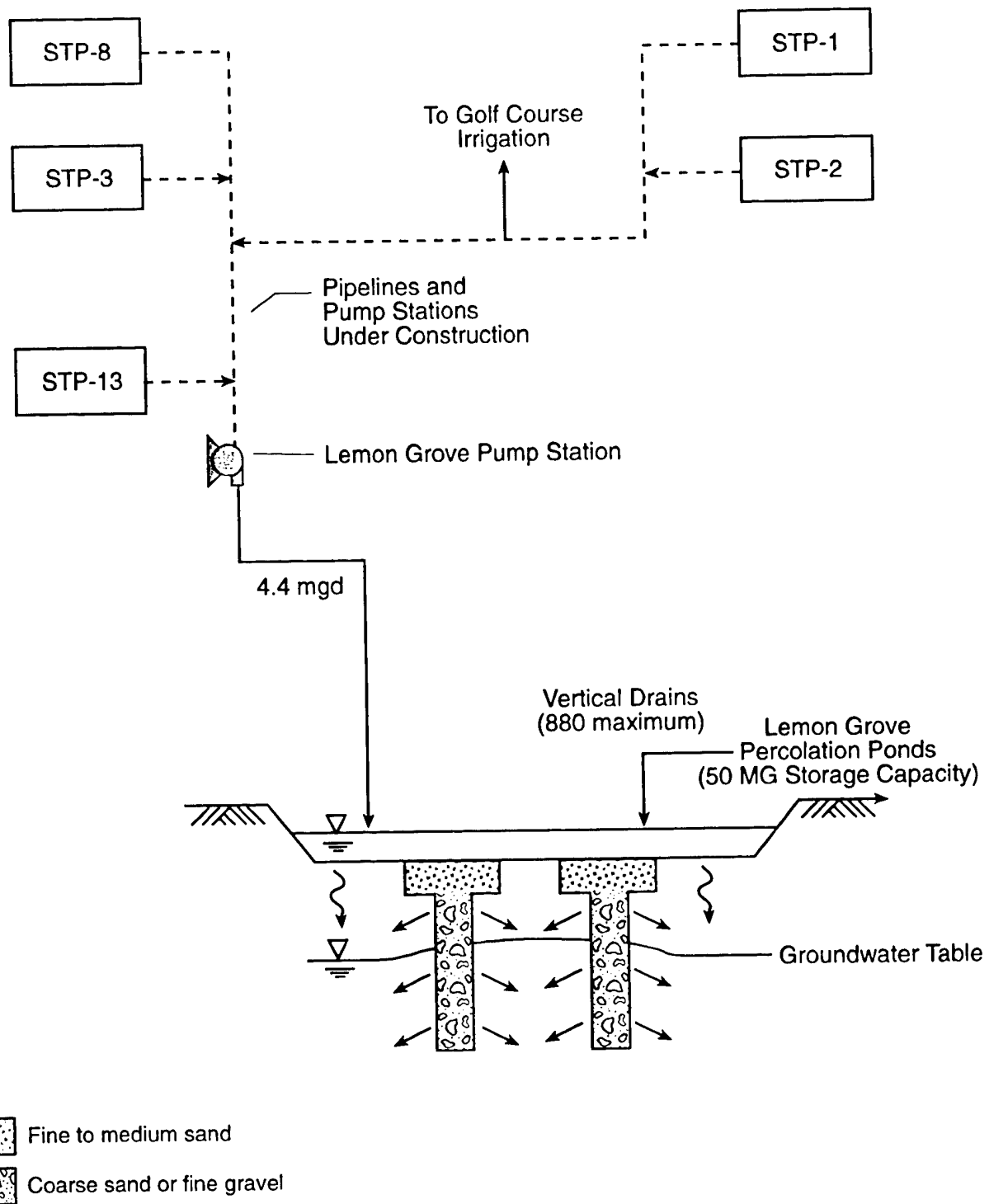
### **2.2.1 Alternative 1: Discharge of Secondary Effluent at Lemon Grove in Percolation Ponds with Vertical Drains**

With implementation of Alternative 1, the total effluent from STPs 1, 2, 3, 8, and 13, (4.4 MGD) would be conveyed to the Lemon Grove ponds, which were previously constructed per the FEIS/R ROD. Vertical drains would be constructed within the Lemon Grove ponds to enhance percolation. Without these drains, there would be inadequate percolation capacity for the total effluent. Design and construction of Alternative 1 would take approximately six months, with the system being operational in the year 1999. Therefore, this alternative would achieve compliance with the RWQCB Cease and Desist Orders by the May, 1999 deadline.

Figures 2-2 through 2-6 show a schematic flow diagram, the proposed locations of the facilities, a plan view of the ponds, plan and cross-section of the vertical drains, and a cross section of the flow area. Features of Alternative 1 would include the following:

- Use of the Lemon Grove percolation ponds, as described in the FEIS/R. The ponds would have a total storage volume of approximately 50 million gallons. The percolation ponds would be constructed below the existing grade elevation, by excavation of approximately 7-10 feet of silty soil which overlays sandy soils. Some of the excavated materials would be used to form berms between the separate basins; the berms may extend above the existing grade elevation, and would be designed to control surface drainage.
- Construction of a maximum of 880 vertical drains is proposed within the percolation ponds. The system of ponds and drains would be capable of disposing of the design flow of 4.4 MGD. The ponds would not be lined.

The vertical drains would be positioned approximately 30 feet on center. Each drain would have an approximate diameter of three feet and would extend approximately 20 to 30 feet below the bottom of the ponds. The drains would not be lined, and would be filled with coarse sand or fine gravel. The upper portion of each drain would be widened and filled with a layer of medium to fine sand in order to provide a sand filter for particulate materials and suspended solids in the secondary effluent. The purpose of the sand filter would be to prevent clogging of pores in the vertical drains, thereby extending drain life. Up to 50,000 cubic yards of sand and gravel would be imported for the vertical drains and sand filters.



SOURCE: Montgomery Watson, 1998

Figure 2-2

# Alternative 1 Vertical Drains in Lemon Grove Ponds Schematic Flow Diagram



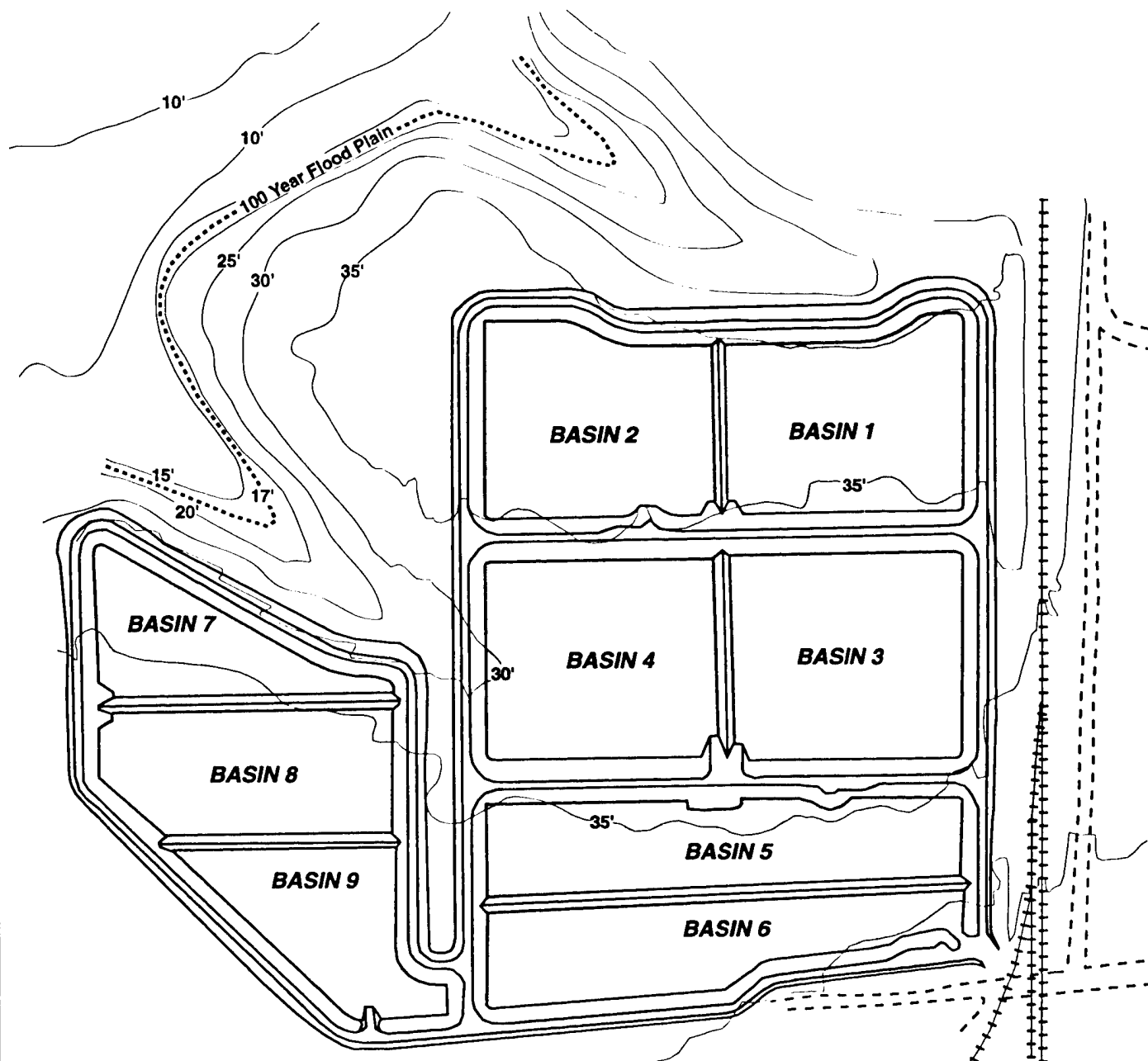


Figure 2-4

## Lemon Grove Percolation Ponds

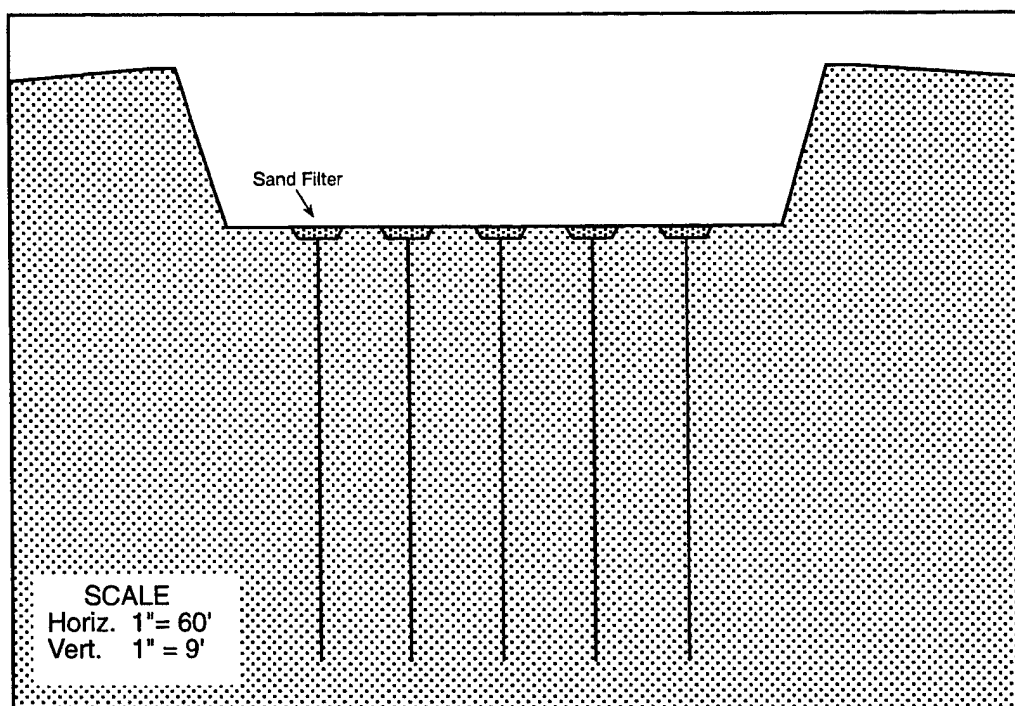
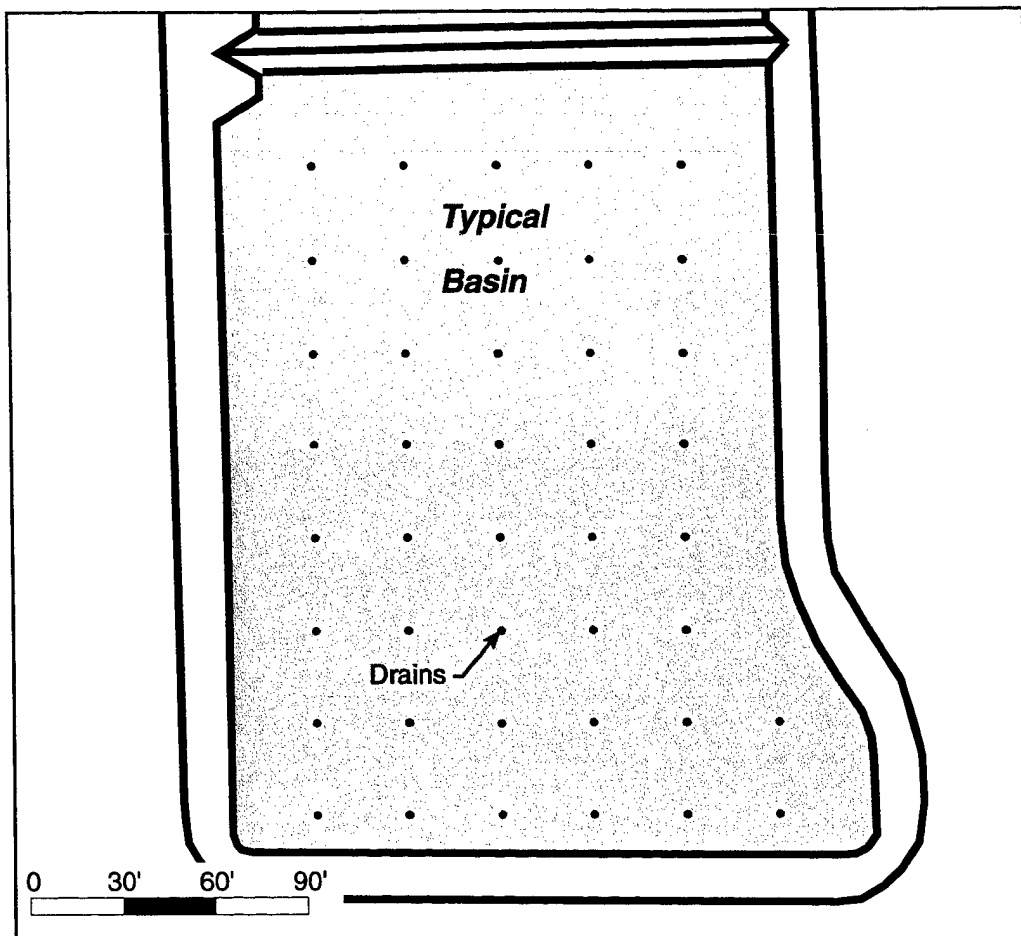


Figure 2-5  
 Conceptual Plan and Cross-  
 Section of Vertical Drains

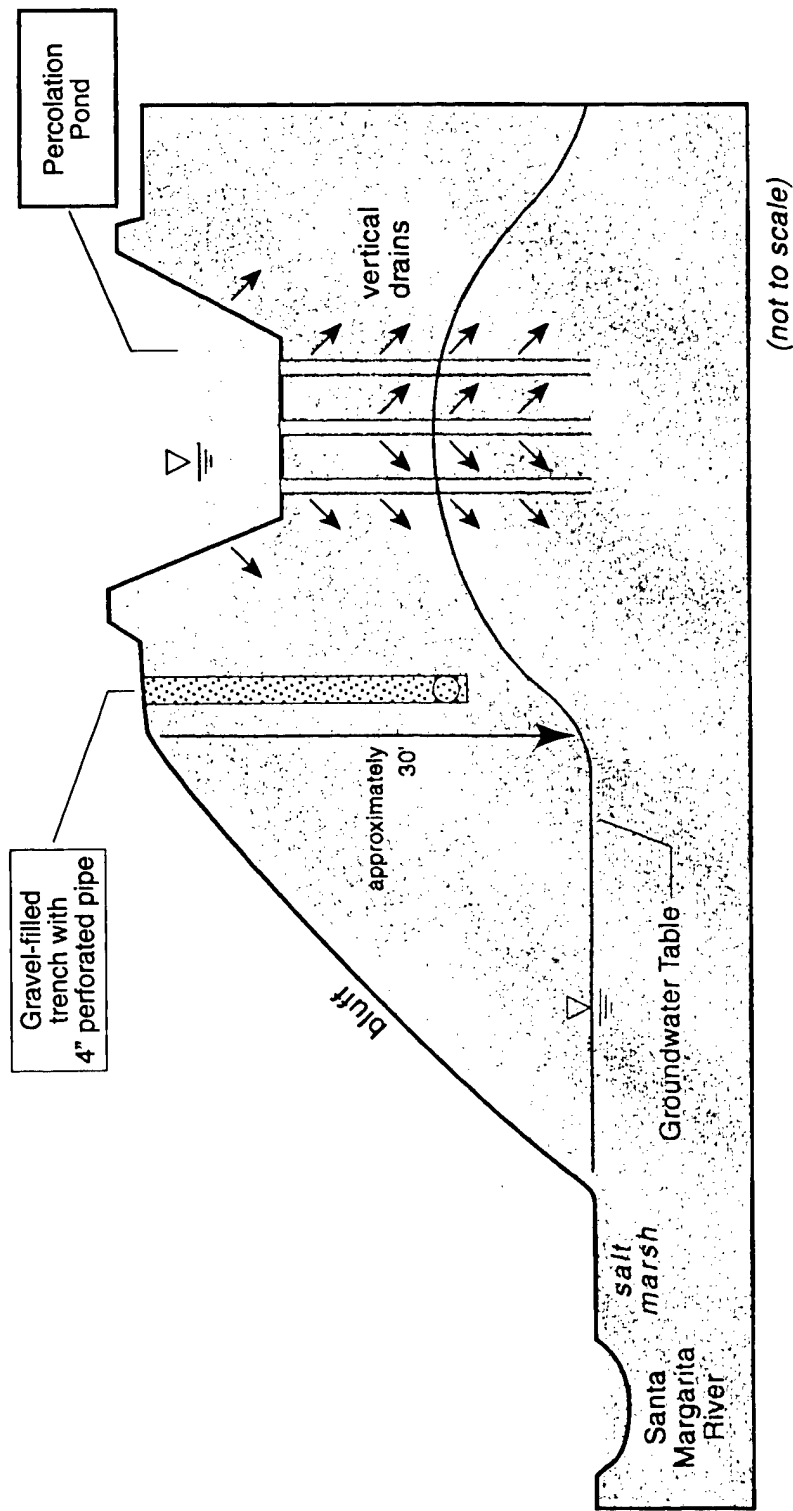


Figure 2-6

# Alternative 1 Generalized Cross Section Schematic



- Construction of a system to prevent lateral flow of effluent into the adjacent salt marsh or into the Santa Margarita River by way of surfacing in the bluff north and northwest of the ponds. The system would include a narrow trench between the ponds and the river at a depth near groundwater elevation and would be located within a previously disturbed area. The trench would be filled with gravel, with a perforated pipe at the bottom. Effluent intercepted and collected in the pipe would be pumped back into the ponds.
- Pond operation would be cyclic, with each pond being filled, allowed to drain, and then to dry. Approximately 50 percent of the ponds and drains would be filling or draining at any point in time. The remaining ponds and drains would be dry, in order to allow for drying of the surrounding soils.
- During periods when the flow of secondary effluent from the STPs would exceed the disposal capacity of the normally in-service ponds, additional ponds would be placed in service.
- The final design of Alternative 1 would be modified based upon the pilot field study and modeling described in Section 2.1.3 above. The quantity of 880 drains is based on a conservative estimate of percolation capacity derived from laboratory studies, and is considered a maximum number. Field study findings may result in predictions of increased percolation capacity with a reduction in the required number of drains. Field study findings would also be used to specify the location and depth of the lateral flow prevention system.

**2.2.2 Alternative 2: Discharge of Secondary Effluent at Lemon Grove in Percolation Ponds with Vertical Drains plus Advanced Wastewater Treatment and Reclamation of a Portion of the Effluent (Preferred Alternative)**

Alternative 2 would be implemented in two phases. With implementation of Phase 1, the total effluent from STPs 1, 2, 3, 8, and 13, (4.4 MGD), would be conveyed to the Lemon Grove ponds, which were previously constructed per the FEIS/R ROD. Vertical drains would be constructed within the Lemon Grove ponds to enhance percolation. Design and construction of Phase 1 would take approximately six months, with the system being operational in the year 1999. Therefore this alternative would achieve compliance with the RWQCB Cease and Desist Orders by the May, 1999 deadline.

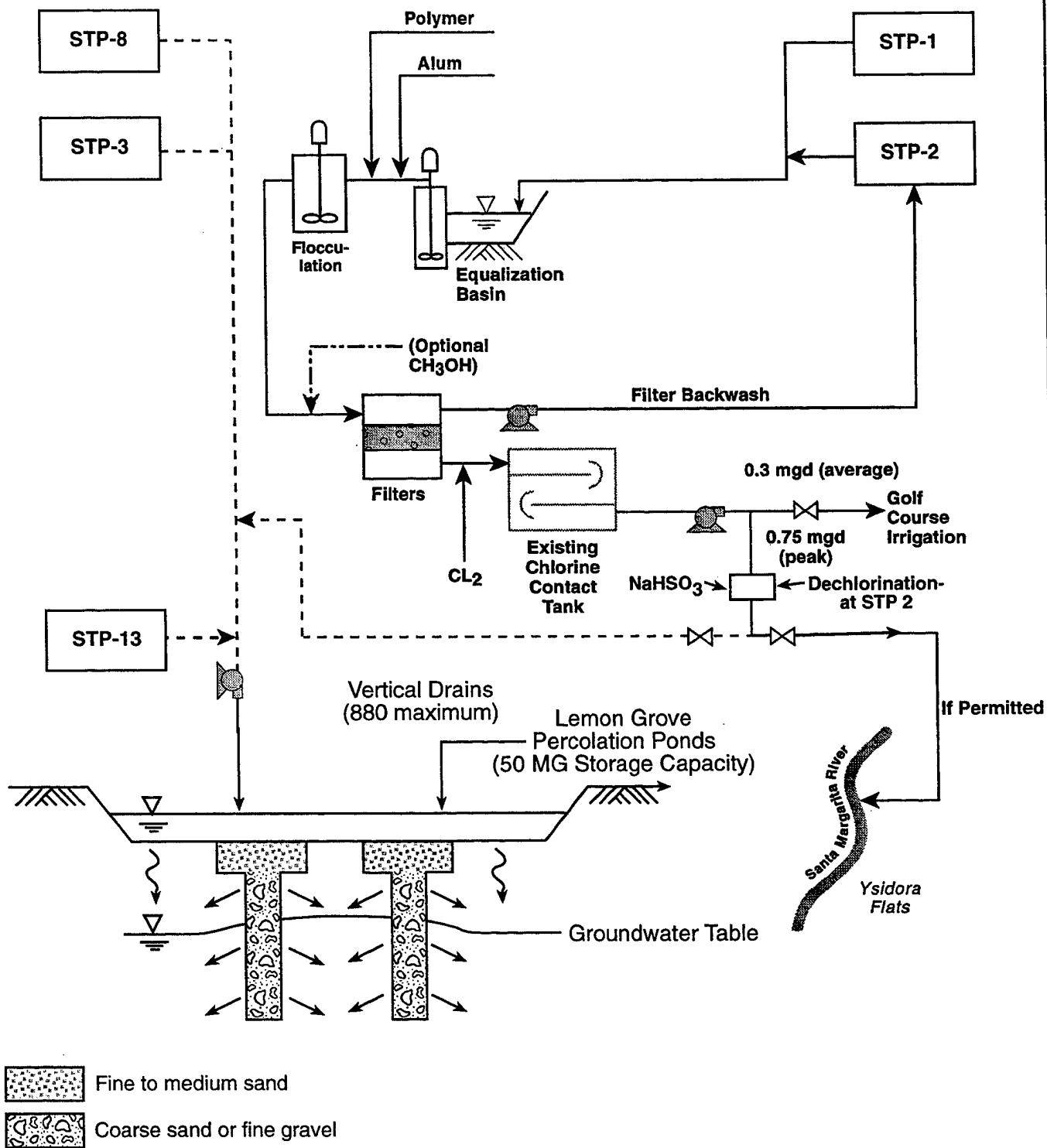
Phase 2 would add a system for advanced wastewater treatment<sup>1</sup> of the effluent from STPs 1 and 2 (0.9 MGD). The secondary effluent from STPs 3, 8 and 13 (3.4 MGD) would be conveyed to the Lemon Grove ponds, which were previously constructed per the FEIS/R ROD. The treated effluent from STPs 1 and 2 would be used to irrigate the Marine Memorial Golf Course, with the unused portion discharged in the Ysidora Flats area of the Santa Margarita River. Design and construction of Phase 2 of Alternative 2 would take approximately 15 months, with the system being operational in the year 2000.

A schematic diagram for Alternate 2 is shown in Figure 2-7; the proposed location of the facilities to be used for Phase 2 of Alternative 2 are shown in Figures 2-8 and 2-9. Features of Phase 2 of Alternative 2 would include the following:

- Construction of a connecting pipeline from the STP 1 effluent pipeline west of STP 2 to a new equalization basin within STP 2. The connection at the STP 1 pipeline would include a valve to provide the option for STP 1 effluent to go in to or bypass STP 2. The pipeline would cross Pilgrim Creek. In order to minimize disturbance in the vicinity of the creek, the pipeline would be installed by directional drilling underneath the creek.

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<sup>1</sup> The advanced treatment for effluent from STPs 1 and 2 is secondary treatment plus removal of particulate matter and chlorination, without nutrient removal.



SOURCE: Montgomery Watson

Figure 2-7

## Alternative 2 Vertical Drains in Lemon Grove Ponds plus Partial Advanced Treated Wastewater to Ysidora Flats

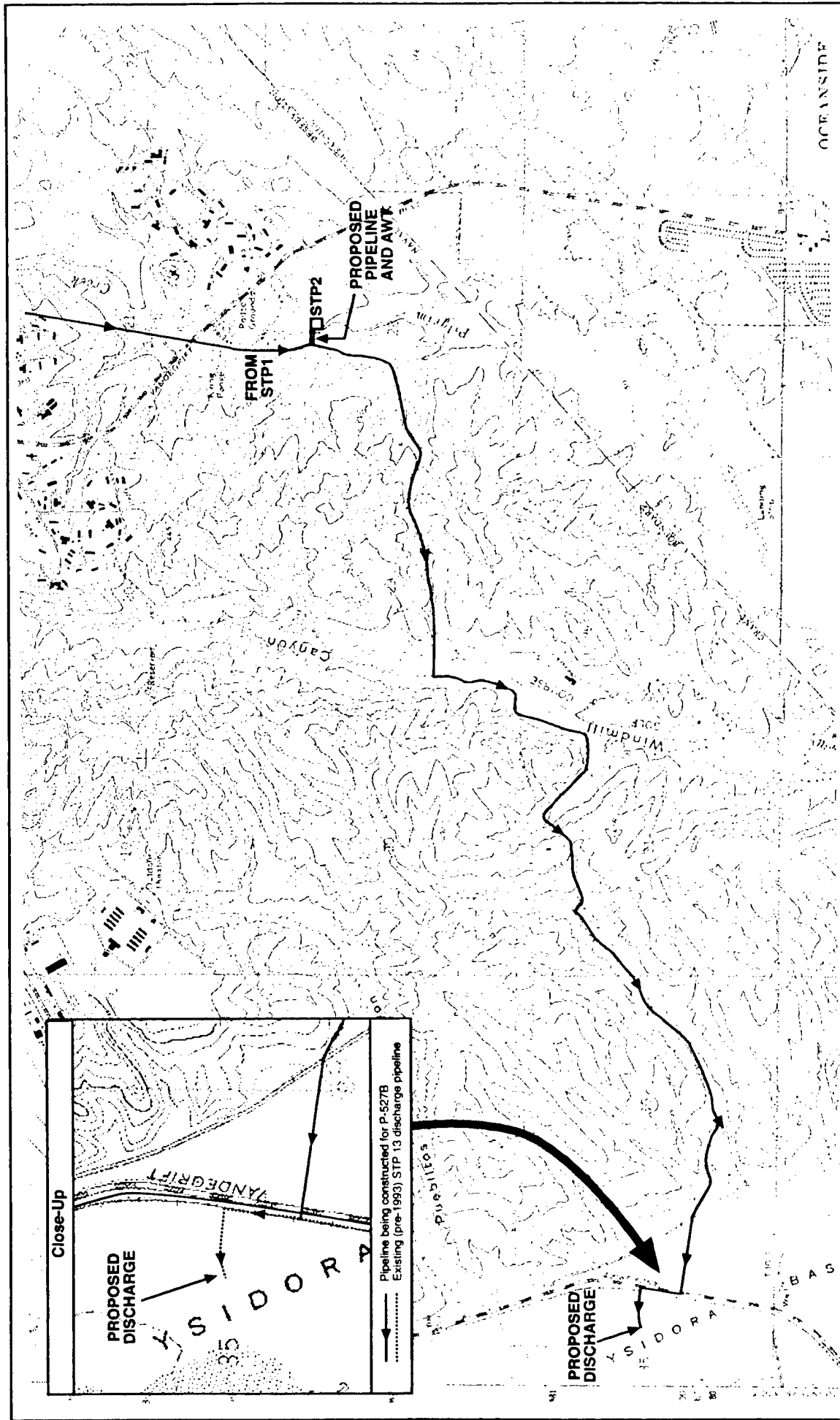
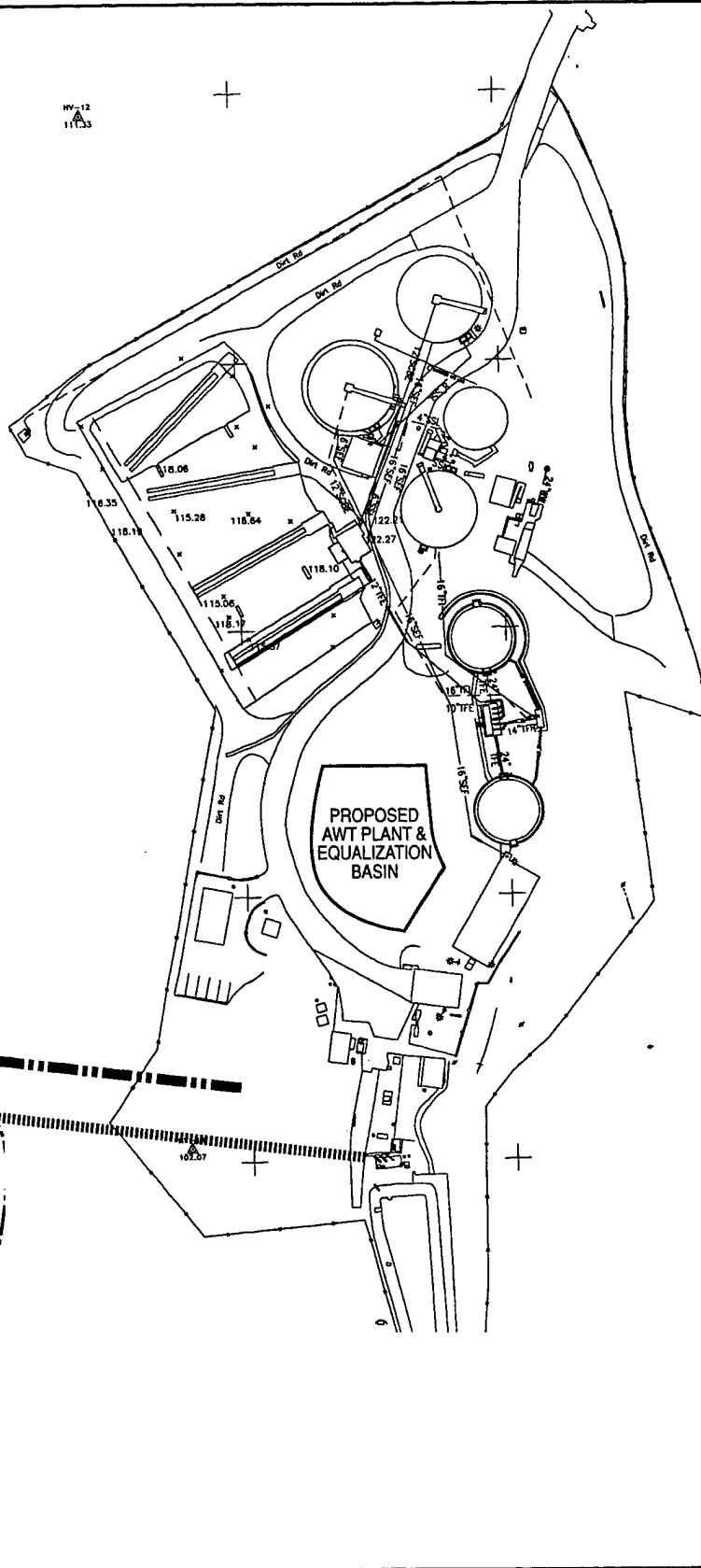


Figure 2-8

## Alternative 2 Location of Phase 2 Facilities

NOTE: Scaled down to 70% from original USGS



## Alternative 2 Location of Facilities at STP2

- Construction of a 230,000 gallon equalization basin within the existing, fenced STP 2 area. Secondary effluent from STPs 1 and 2 would be conveyed to the equalization basin. The equalization basin would provide effluent storage in order to minimize changes in the rate of advanced wastewater filtration.
- Construction of an advanced wastewater treatment facility, including flocculation, filtration and chlorination processes, at STP 2. This facility would have a nominal capacity of 0.91 MGD, and would treat the combined effluent from STPs 1 and 2. Treatment would satisfy criteria for unrestricted irrigation of landscape where public contact is probable. Nitrogen and phosphorous removal would not be included.
- Treated effluent from STP 1 and 2 would be discharged to the Marine Memorial Golf Course as required for adequate irrigation. The annual average water use is approximately 0.5 MGD. Peak demand during the dry, summer months is estimated at 0.75-1.25 MGD.
- Treated effluent that would be surplus to the golf course requirements could be discharged at the Ysidora Flats outfall in the Santa Margarita River flood plain, providing groundwater recharge and water for riparian habitat. Golf course water demand would be likely to exceed the effluent supply during the hotter summer periods; during those periods there would be no discharge to Ysidora Flats. As the effluent would contain nutrients, a test program approved by the cognizant resource agencies would be implemented to monitor the effects of the discharge. This discharge would require approval and a permit from RWQCB, and an amendment to the Basin Plan.
- Construction and installation of equipment for dechlorination of STP 1 and 2 effluent prior to discharge, when discharge would be routed to the Ysidora Flats area. The equipment would be located within the STP 2 fence line.
- Construction of a pipeline connection near the western terminus of the Headquarters West pipeline, which is being constructed to convey STP 1 and 2 effluent to Lemon Grove (Figure 2-8). A new connection would be made to an existing pipeline which runs north and west to the proposed outfall site at Ysidora Flats.
- Construction of an outfall structure at the west end of the existing pipeline in the Ysidora Flats area of the Santa Margarita River flood plain. The structure would consist of a small concrete pad with riprap, in order to dissipate the energy of the effluent discharge.

Alternatively, detailed design and hydrological analysis may dictate the design of a multi-point discharge, such as a series of pipes with small openings, in order to spread the discharge and enhance local use of the effluent.

- If the quantity of effluent available for discharge at Ysidora Flats is greater than acceptable for beneficial use, or if the quality is found to be unsatisfactory, the excess effluent would be conveyed to, and discharged at the completed Lemon Grove ponds with vertical drains.
- If the quality of the effluent available for discharge at Ysidora Flats is found to have adverse impacts because of excess nutrients, discharge would cease, and all effluent in excess of that utilized at the Marine Memorial Golf Course would be conveyed to the Lemon Grove ponds. The addition of nutrient removal equipment and processes to the STP 2 Advanced Wastewater Treatment (AWT) plant would be included in future project planning.

### **2.2.3 Alternative 3: Tertiary Treated Effluent Blended with Secondary Effluent for Groundwater Recharge at Ysidora Flats**

With implementation of Alternative 3, a tertiary treatment<sup>2</sup> facility would be constructed at STP 13. The treated effluent from STP 13 (2.8 MGD) would be pumped to the Ysidora Flats area and combined with the remainder of secondary effluent from STPs 1 and 2, after irrigation of the Marine Memorial Golf Course, plus the secondary effluent from STPs 3 and 8 (1.5 MGD). The blended effluent from all five STPs (4.4 MGD) would be discharged into the Santa Margarita River at Ysidora Flats. The Lemon Grove ponds, which were previously constructed per the FEIS/R ROD, would be used for percolating 0.4 MGD of tertiary treated effluent from STP 13. Design and construction of Alternative 3 would take approximately 24 months. Therefore, this alternative would not achieve compliance with the RWQCB Cease and Desist Orders' deadline of May, 1999. Also, the tertiary treatment of effluent from STP 13 could not be accomplished within the funding limits authorized by Congress for this project. Therefore, this alternative would require additional Congressional funding. This alternative would be operational in the year 2004.

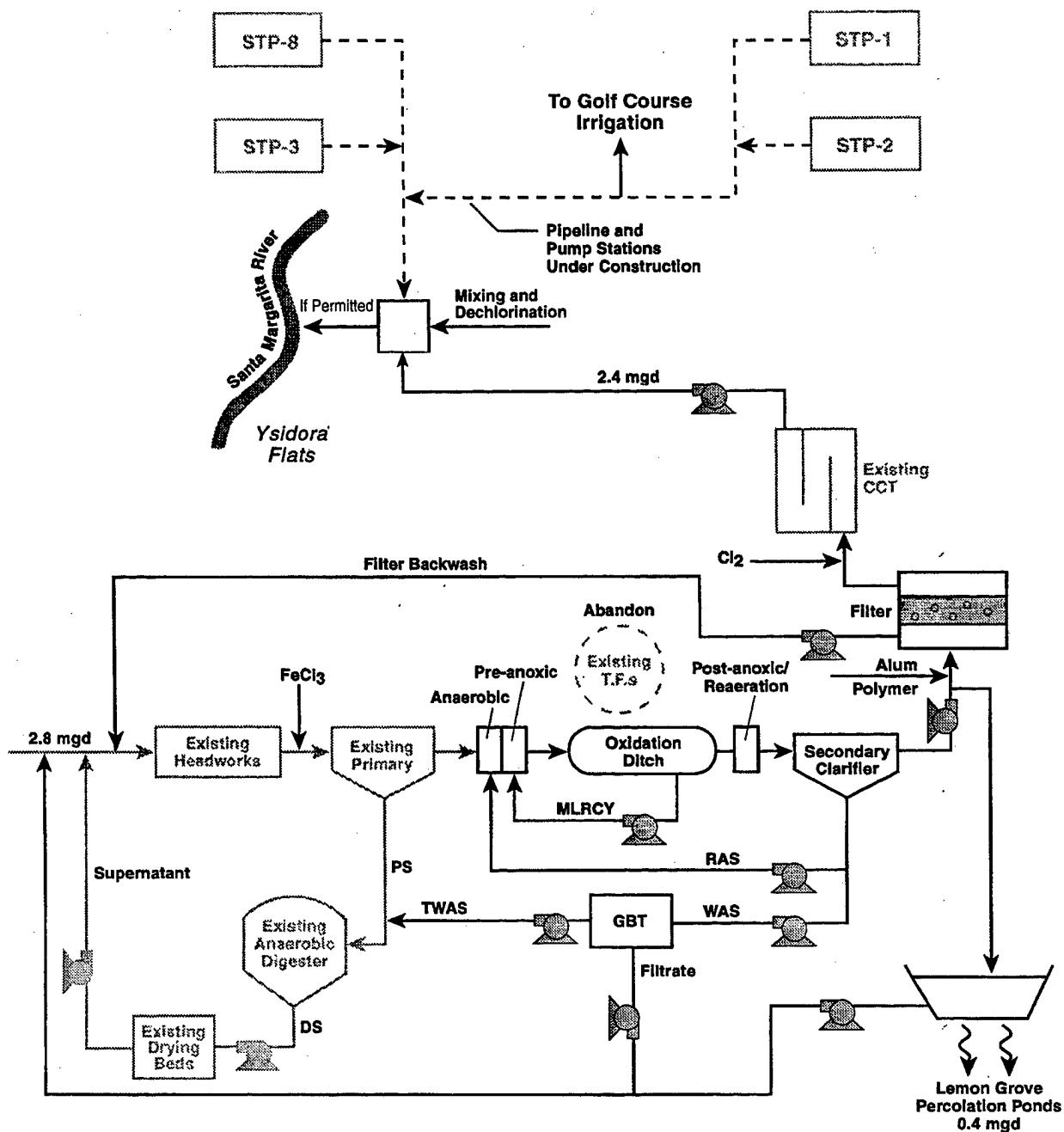
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<sup>2</sup> The tertiary treatment for STP 13 would include filtration, nutrient removal, and chlorination. Nitrogen and phosphorous would be reduced by biological processes.

A flow diagram for Alternative 3 is shown in Figure 2-10 and the proposed locations of the tertiary treatment facilities to be used for Alternative 3 are shown in Figure 2-11. Features of Alternative 3 would include the following:

- Construction and operation of an tertiary treatment plant adjacent to STP 13. Tertiary treatment would include filtration, nutrient removal, and chlorination. Nitrogen and phosphorous would be reduced by biological processes.
- Construction of a pump station and approximately 13,000 feet of piping to convey treated effluent to the proposed outfall site at Ysidora Flats. The pipeline would be constructed in a trench parallel to the Margarita pipeline installed to convey effluent from STPs 1, 2, 3, and 8 to Lemon Grove (Figure 2-1) as part of the project approved in the FEIS/R.
- Construction of valves and turnout in the Margarita pipeline to direct the secondary effluent from STPs 1, 2, 3, and 8 to the Ysidora Flats area.
- Construction of a dechlorination facility at the Ysidora Flats area where the two effluent streams would be blended and discharged through an existing pipeline to the river (Figure 2-8). The equipment would be located on the Ysidora Flats corridor and would be sited to avoid or minimize impact to the wetlands mitigation site.
- Construction of a discharge pipe and outfall structure in the Ysidora Flats outfall area. The structure would consist of a concrete pad with riprap in order to dissipate the energy of the effluent discharge. Alternatively, detailed design and hydrological analysis may dictate the design of a multi-point discharge, such as a series of pipes with small openings in order to spread the discharge and enhance local use of the effluent.
- Use of the ponds constructed at the Lemon Grove site. The vertical drains described in Alternatives 1 and 2 would not be constructed.
- During periods when the flow of secondary effluent from STP 13 would exceed the treatment capacity of the tertiary treatment plant, excess effluent will be stored in the percolation ponds.





#### Abbreviations:

CCT = Chlorine Contact Tank  
 DS = Digested Sludge  
 GBT = Gravity Belt Thickener  
 MLRCY = Mixed Liquor Recycle

PS = Primary Sludge  
 RAS = Return Activated Sludge  
 TF = Trickling Filter  
 TWAS = Thickened Waste Activated Sludge  
 WAS = Waste Activated Sludge

SOURCE: Montgomery Watson, 1998

Figure 2-10

## Alternative 3 Groundwater Recharge at Ysidora Flats

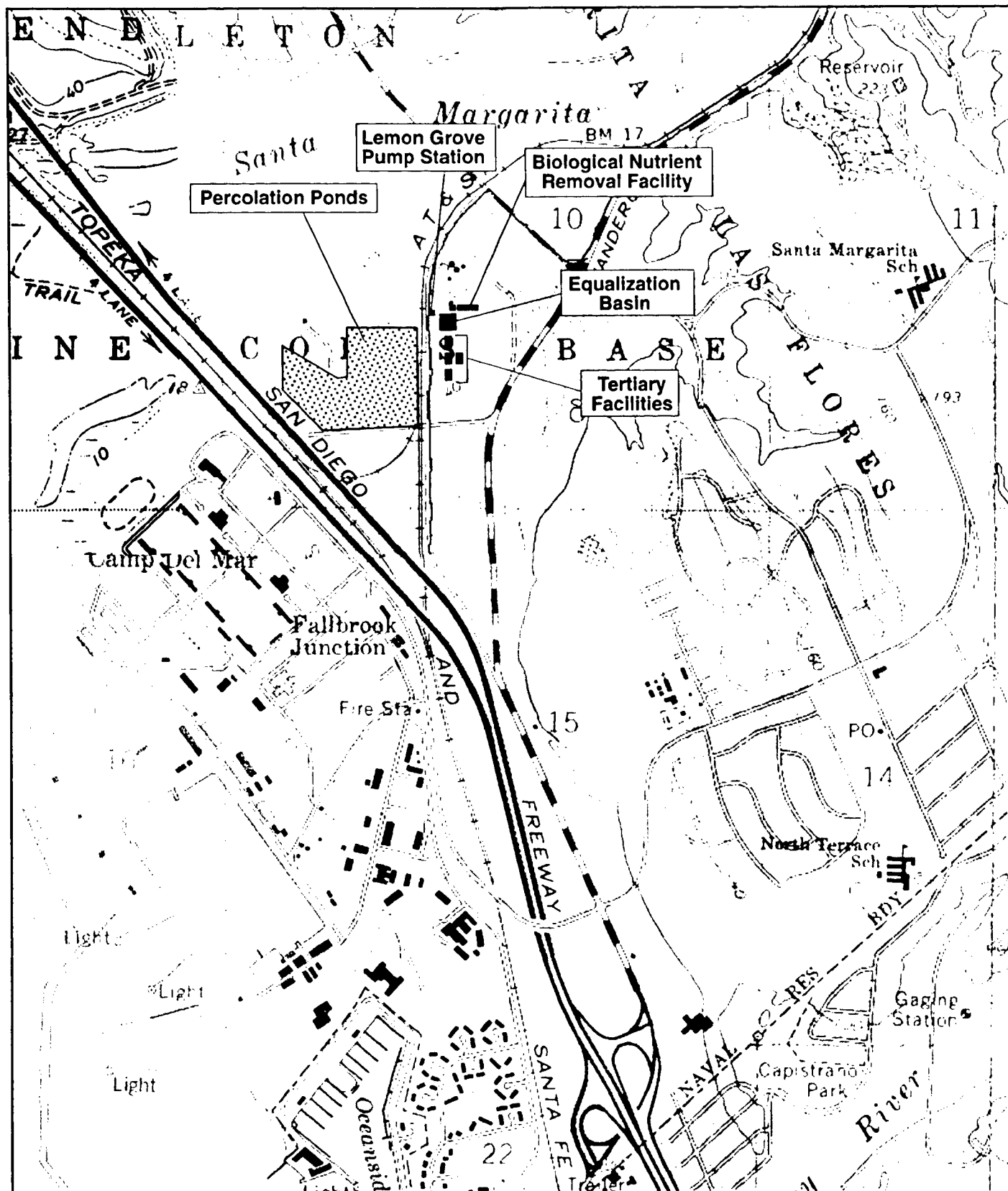


Figure 2-11  
**Alternative 3**  
 Groundwater Recharge at Ysidora Flats  
 AWT Plant Site Plan

#### **2.2.4 Alternative 4: Advanced Wastewater Treatment and Discharge in Cased Wells at Lemon Grove**

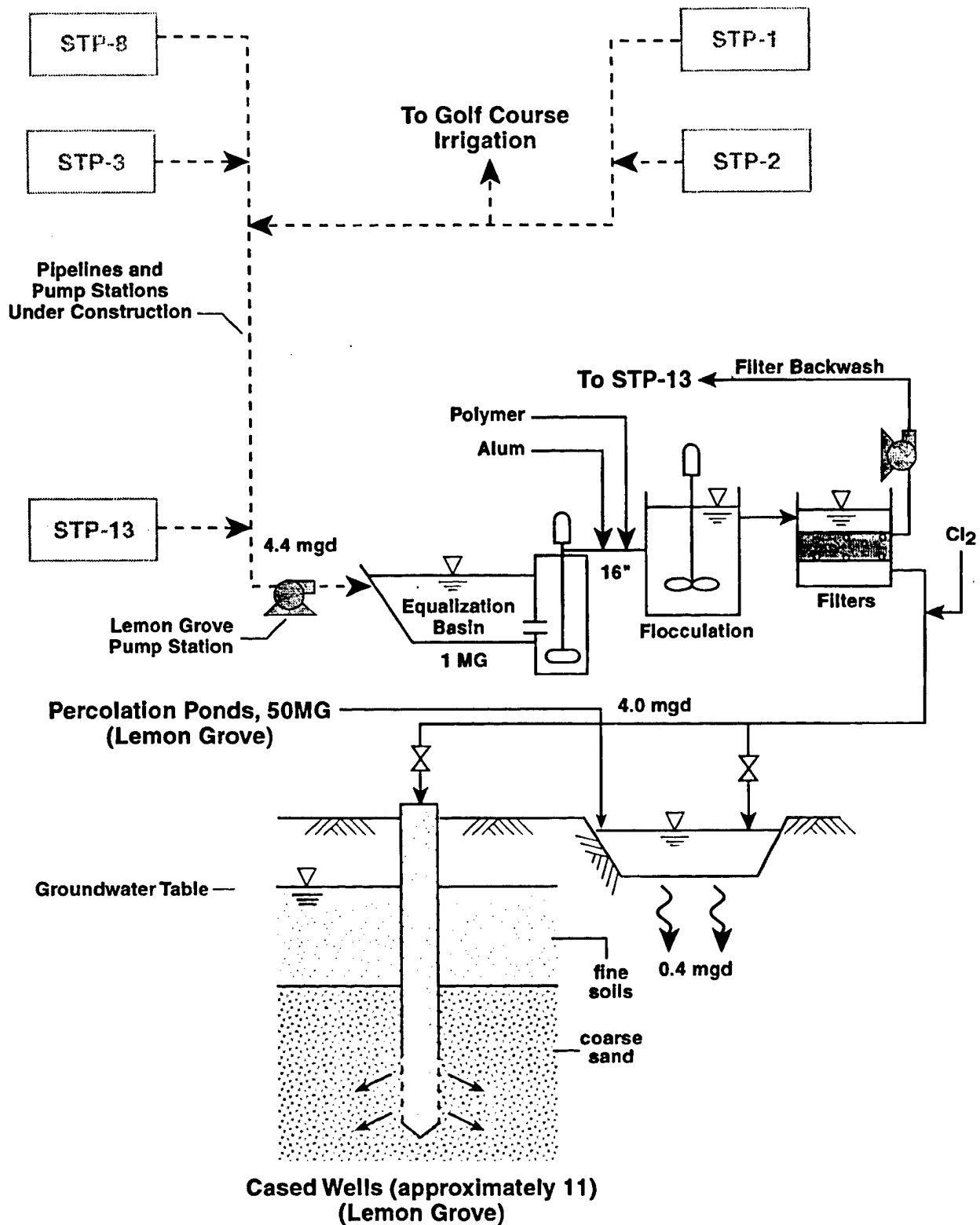
With implementation of Alternative 4, the total effluent from STPs 1, 2, 3, 8, and 13 (4.4 MGD) would be conveyed to STP 13 for advanced wastewater treatment<sup>3</sup>, and then to the previously constructed Lemon Grove ponds for disposal. The treated effluent would be conveyed to the water table through cased, gravity injection wells in the Lemon Grove ponds. Design and construction of Alternative 4 would take approximately 18 months, with the system being operational in the year 2000. Therefore, this alternative would not achieve compliance with the RWQCB's May, 1999 deadline of the Board's Cease and Desist Orders.

A flow diagram for Alternative 4 is shown in Figure 2-12 and the proposed locations of the facilities to be used for Alternative 4 are shown in Figure 2-13. Features of Alternative 4 would include the following:

- Construction of a two-million-gallon (2 MG) equalization basin south of STP 13. The basin would be designed with an approximate balance of cut and fill, with minimal material export. Secondary effluent from STPs 1, 2, 3, 8, and 13 would be conveyed to the equalization basin, with excess effluent conveyed to storage ponds.
- Construction and operation of an AWT plant adjacent to STP 13. Secondary effluent from the equalization basin would be pumped through piping where chemical addition and flocculation would occur. The effluent would then be processed through filters and chlorinated. The process would reduce the total suspended solids from approximately 15 parts per million (ppm) to 5 ppm.
- Use of the percolation ponds, constructed at the Lemon Grove site.
- Construction of 11 cased, gravity injection wells, each approximately 6-12 inches in diameter and 80-100 feet deep, and piping from the AWT plant to the wells. Approximately 50-60 feet of the bottom of the casing would be screened, or perforated, to allow the effluent to flow to groundwater. A pipe within the well casing would convey effluent to near the bottom of the well. The wells would be located on the perimeter of the Lemon Grove ponds, or in the areas between the ponds (see Figure 2-4 and 2-12).

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<sup>3</sup> See footnote 1.



SOURCE: Montgomery Watson

Figure 2-12

# Alternative 4 Cased Wells at Lemon Grove Ponds Schematic Flow Diagram



- All cased wells would be in operation during the winter season, and would be capable of disposing of the design flow of 4.4 MGD. On peak flow days, when the flow of secondary effluent from the STPs could exceed the treatment capacity of the AWT plant or disposal capacity of the wells, excess effluent would be stored in the Lemon Grove ponds.
- During the summer season, when there would be lower flows, wells would be taken out of service periodically for cleaning and maintenance.
- Approximately 0.4 MGD of secondary effluent would percolate to groundwater from the storage ponds when they would contain excess effluent or rain water.

#### **2.2.5 Alternative 5: Advanced Wastewater Treatment with Irrigation of Agricultural Fields and Discharge in Cased Wells**

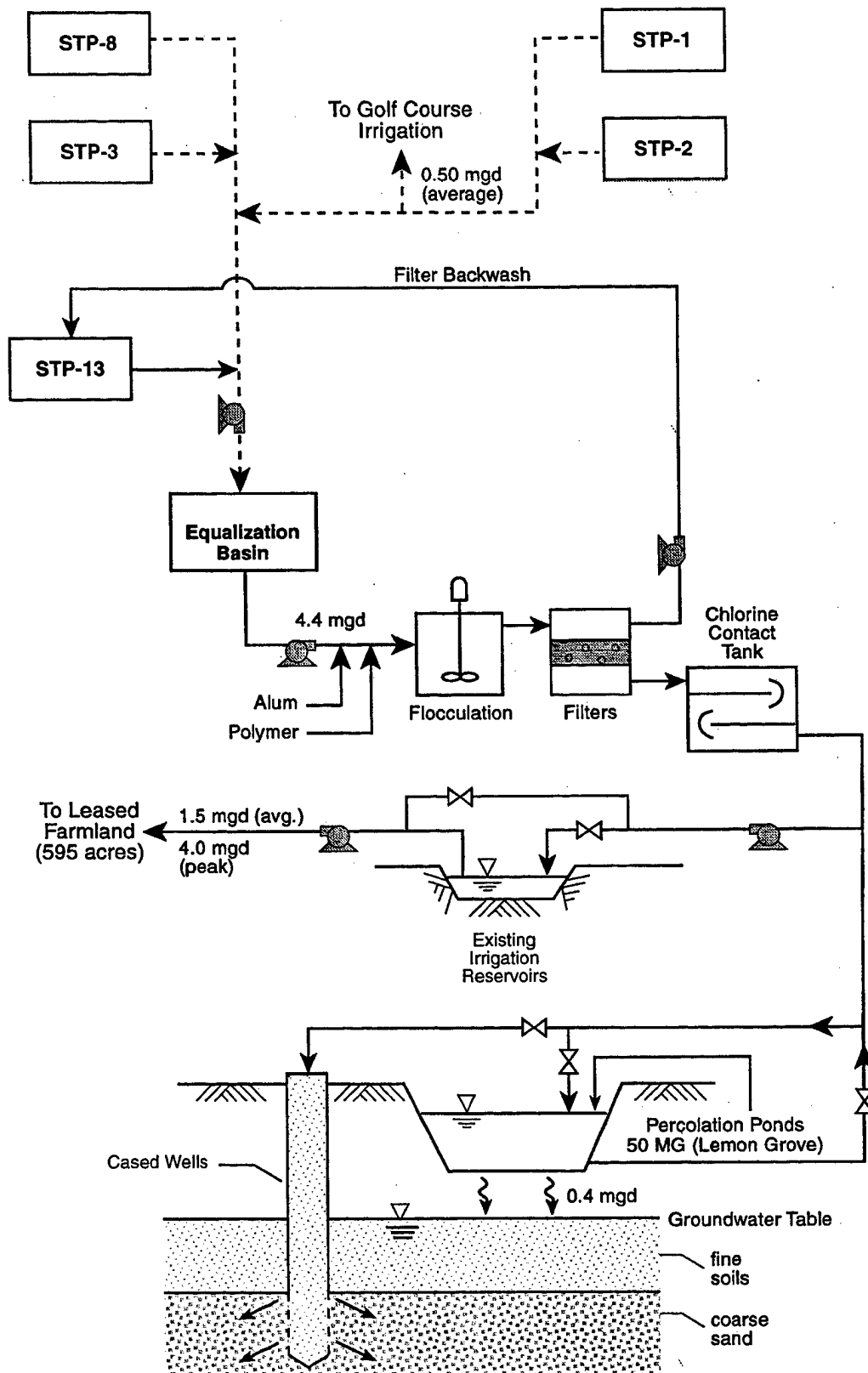
With implementation of Alternative 5, a system for advanced wastewater treatment<sup>4</sup> would be constructed at STP 13. The total effluent from STPs 1, 2, 3, 8, and 13 (4.4 MGD) would be conveyed to STP 13 for treatment. This treated effluent would be conveyed to on-Base agricultural fields for crop irrigation. The agricultural fields are currently being irrigated with potable water. Cased wells would be constructed in the Lemon Grove ponds for discharge of advanced treated effluent in excess of irrigation needs. Design and construction of Alternative 5 would take approximately 20 months, with the system being operational in year 2000. Consequently, this alternative would not achieve compliance with the RWQCB's May, 1999 deadline of the Board's Cease and Desist Orders.

A flow diagram for Alternative 5 is shown in Figure 2-14 and the proposed locations of the facilities to be used for Alternative 5 are shown in Figure 2-15. Features of Alternative 5 would include the following:

- Construction of a 2 MG equalization basin south of STP 13, adjacent to the Lemon Grove ponds. Secondary effluent from STPs 1, 2, 3, 8, and 13 would be conveyed to the equalization basin, with excess effluent pumped to the storage ponds.

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<sup>4</sup> See footnote 1



SOURCE: Montgomery Watson, 1998

Figure 2-14

## Alternative 5 Agricultural Irrigation Schematic Flow Diagram

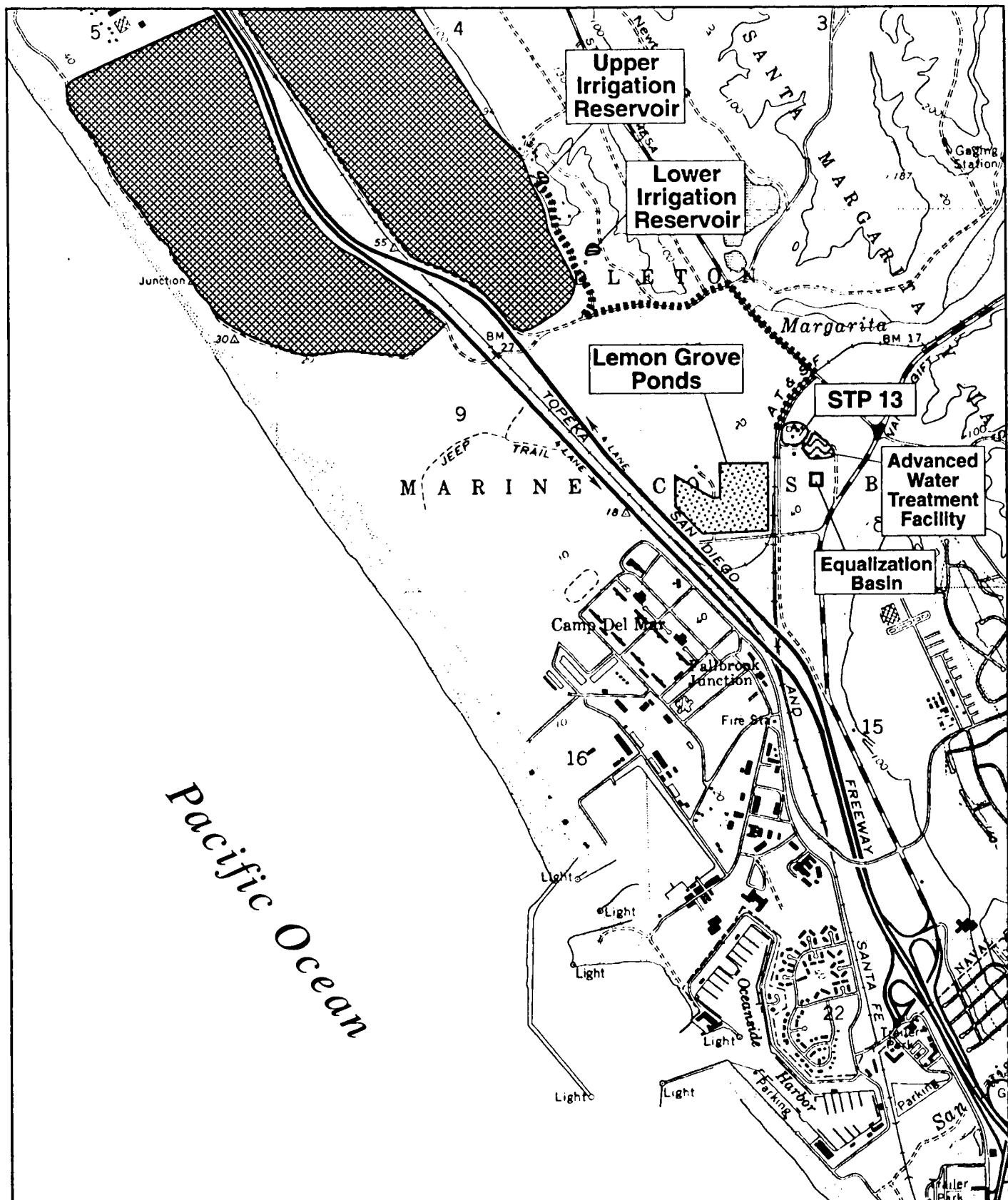


Figure 2-15  
**Alternative 5**  
**Agricultural Irrigation**  
**Facility Location**



- |  |                                   |  |                      |
|--|-----------------------------------|--|----------------------|
|  | Advanced water treatment facility |  | Irrigation reservoir |
|  | Agricultural area                 |  | Pipeline             |



- Construction and operation of an AWT plant adjacent to STP 13. Secondary effluent from the equalization basin would be pumped to the AWT plant for filtration and disinfection. The AWT would improve the quality of the effluent to the standards required for irrigation of agricultural land, as specified in Title 22, Division 4 of the California Administrative Code.
- Construction of a pump station and approximately 7,000 feet of piping to convey the AWT effluent to an existing irrigation reservoir. All piping would be in existing roadways and the pipeline would be attached to the Stuart Mesa road bridge over the Santa Margarita River. The AWT effluent would then be conveyed by an existing system to irrigate on-Base, leased agricultural lands northwest of the Lemon Grove ponds, on the east and west sides of I-5.
- Use of the percolation ponds constructed at the Lemon Grove site.
- Construction of approximately 11 cased, gravity injection wells, on the perimeter at the Lemon Grove ponds. The wells would be capable of disposing of 4.4 MGD of effluent. Details of well construction and operation are described in Section 2.2.4.
- The normal requirements for crop irrigation would vary seasonally and would range from 0.5 MGD to 3.4 MGD, with an average demand at 1.5 MGD (Montgomery Watson 1998). Effluent from the AWT plant which exceeds the requirements for crop irrigation would be discharged through the cased wells.

#### **2.2.6 No Action Alternative**

With the No Action Alternative, there would be no construction of vertical drains, AWT plants, cased wells, or live stream discharge systems as described in the proposed action alternatives. Effluent from STPs 1, 2, 3, 8, and 13 would be conveyed to the percolation ponds at Lemon Grove in the system now being constructed. Disposal would be by percolation and evaporation. When the Lemon Grove ponds are full and the rate of effluent generation exceeds the percolation/evaporation rate, effluent could be stored at or near the individual plants in the ponds now used for storage and percolation and planned for abandonment. When all storage ponds are full, excess effluent would be discharged to the Santa Margarita River adjacent to the Lemon Grove Ponds. The No Action Alternative would result in continued violation of the Basin Plan.

### 2.3 ALTERNATIVES ELIMINATED FROM DETAILED STUDY

In 1997-98, following the City of Oceanside's rejection of that part of the FEIS/R proposed action which was planned for use of the Oceanside outfall, new alternatives were studied. The alternatives are discussed in detail in the draft report *Marine Corps Base Camp Pendleton Alternative and Regulatory Analysis for Effluent Discharge* (Montgomery Watson 1998). The alternatives analysis is summarized in Table 2-3, including alternatives that were eliminated from detailed study.

Additional sites for percolation ponds within MCB Camp Pendleton, including additional area at Lemon Grove, and sites identified as Rodeo, North Mac, South Mac, I-5/Railroad and Boat Basin, were considered for incorporation into the alternatives to be considered (Figure 2-16). Each of these sites were eliminated from detailed analysis after soils and percolation analyses indicated that adequate percolation rates would not be attainable.

### 2.4 PERMITTING ISSUES

The following permitting would be required for implementation of the alternatives of the proposed action:

- The proposed percolation of treated effluent at the Lemon Grove ponds would require issuance of State Waste Discharge Requirements from the RWQCB and any other applicable permits as required.
- The proposed discharge of treated effluent to the surface waters of the Santa Margarita River at Ysidora Flats, as proposed in Alternatives 2 and 3, would require a federal NPDES permit, which would be processed through the RWQCB. A Basin Plan Amendment would also be required.
- The proposed discharge of effluent for purposes of reclamation and irrigation, Alternative 5, would require issuance of State Waste Discharge Requirements from the RWQCB, and written approval by DHS and DEH. Some of the agricultural irrigation would occur east of Interstate 5, and a Basin Plan Amendment would potentially be required if compliance with the Basin Plan Objectives were included in the Waste Discharge Requirements.
- Permits under Sections 401 and 404 of the Clean Water Act would be required for construction of the proposed outfall structure in Ysidora Flats, as described in Alternatives 2 and 3.

**Table 2-3  
Summary of Discharge Options**

Discharge Method	Treatment Level	Comments	Conclusion
Percolation	Secondary	Percolation of secondary effluent at the Lemon Grove site would exceed Basin Plan requirements for TDS for the Lower Ysidora Basin - this should be permissible since the site is at the boundary of the basin and the underlying groundwater is saline. Percolation is commonly done with undisinfected secondary, however, high suspended solids in effluent can reduce percolation rate over time.	Considered in detail in Alternatives 1 and 2.
Percolation	Tertiary	Same as above except filtered effluent can help maintain percolation rate over time.	Considered in detail in Alternatives 2, 4 and 5.
Reclamation, Agriculture	Secondary	Existing crop patterns would require tertiary effluent per Title 22 requirements.	Not considered further. <sup>1</sup>
Reclamation	Tertiary	The on-base golf course uses 0.5 MGD (annual average) and on-base agriculture could use approximately 1.5 MGD. Tertiary effluent would be of acceptable quality.	Considered in detail in Alternatives 2 and 5.
Live Stream, year-round	Secondary without nutrient removal	This is the No Action Alternative. Existing conditions are thought to contribute to nutrient loading and excessive algal blooms in the estuary. Permitting would require a Basin Plan amendment and river and estuary monitoring plan.	Considered in the No Action Alternative. Unlikely to be permitted, not considered further.
Live Stream, year-round	Secondary with nutrient removal	It would be technically infeasible to achieve nutrient removal with the trickling filter secondary effluent.	Not feasible, not considered further.
Live Stream, year-round	Partial tertiary with nutrient removal	Significant reduction in nitrogen and phosphorous is technically feasible using biological treatment - this is Best Available Technology (BAT) economically feasible for nutrient removal. Nutrient loading to estuary could create eutrophic conditions. Potential toxicity of effluent (from toxins other than ammonia or chlorine) would be possible. Permitting would require concurrence with Regional Board regarding BAT and implementation of a river/estuary monitoring plan.	Technically feasible, potential to be permitted. Considered in detail in Alternative 3 which proposes blended effluent that provides a secondary level of treatment.
Live Stream, seasonal	Secondary or tertiary without nutrient removal.	In theory, discharge during periods when in-stream flows are high would dilute effluent and ensure that nutrients are carried out to sea and not accumulated in the estuary. Since sufficient base flow is not present in all years, there is an inherent level of unreliability.	Provides a partial solution only. Could be considered in combination with reclamation and seasonal storage.

## 2.0 Alternatives Including the Proposed Action

Discharge Method	Treatment Level	Comments	Conclusion
Estuary, tidal discharge	Secondary or tertiary without nutrient removal	Would minimize the potential for nutrient loading to the estuary depending on success of timed effluent release with falling tides. Potentially feasible, but would require extensive study of the estuary (dye study, microcosm studies, simulation models). Effluent toxicity would have to be evaluated for marine species.	Not considered further since additional studies could not be accomplished within the time schedule.
Ocean, surf zone	Disinfected secondary	Since the nutrient limits are not described west of the I-5 bridge, secondary effluent discharge could be acceptable by Regional Board. Dilution credit would have to be established. Effluent toxicity would have to be evaluated for marine species. Acceptability by DHS and Coastal Commission is uncertain and additional impact analysis would be required. Time necessary for agency/public coordination and impact analysis would exceed the existing compliance schedule.	Not considered further due to schedule constraints.
Ocean, new outfall	Secondary	Technically feasible but would require detailed study to analyze impacts to the marine environment and extensive agency coordination. Effluent toxicity would have to be evaluated for marine species. Estimated costs greatly exceed available funding.	Not considered further due to excessive cost and schedule constraints.
Ocean, Fallbrook	Tertiary	Sublease of 1 MGD of Fallbrook's capacity in the Oceanside outfall. Technically feasible as a partial solution but political negotiations could not be completed within the available time frame. Effluent toxicity would have to be evaluated for marine species.	Not considered further due to schedule constraints.

<sup>1</sup> Secondary effluent is currently used on the golf course, and would continue with Alternatives 1, 3, 4, 5 and the No Action Alternative.

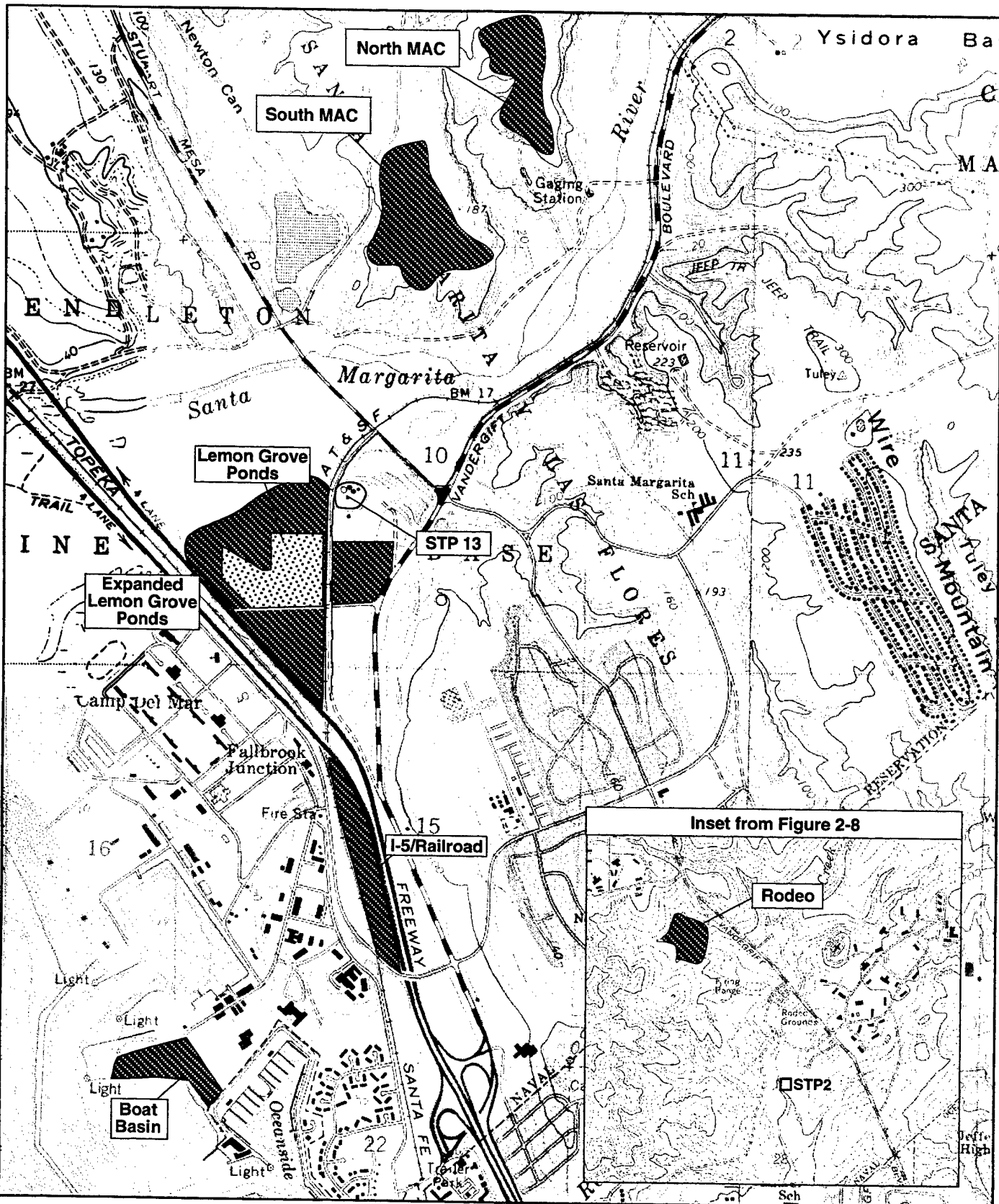


Figure 2-16  
Percolation Pond Sites

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## **CHAPTER 3.0**

### **AFFECTED ENVIRONMENT**

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3.1	Hydrology and Water Quality	3-1
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### **3.0 AFFECTED ENVIRONMENT**

The Affected Environment for the environmental resources discussion in Section 3.0 is described in detail in the FEIS/R. The sections that follow summarize that information, where appropriate, and provide specific information relevant to this SEIS. Section 3.0 of the FEIS/R is incorporated by reference in this SEIS.

#### **3.1 HYDROLOGY AND WATER QUALITY**

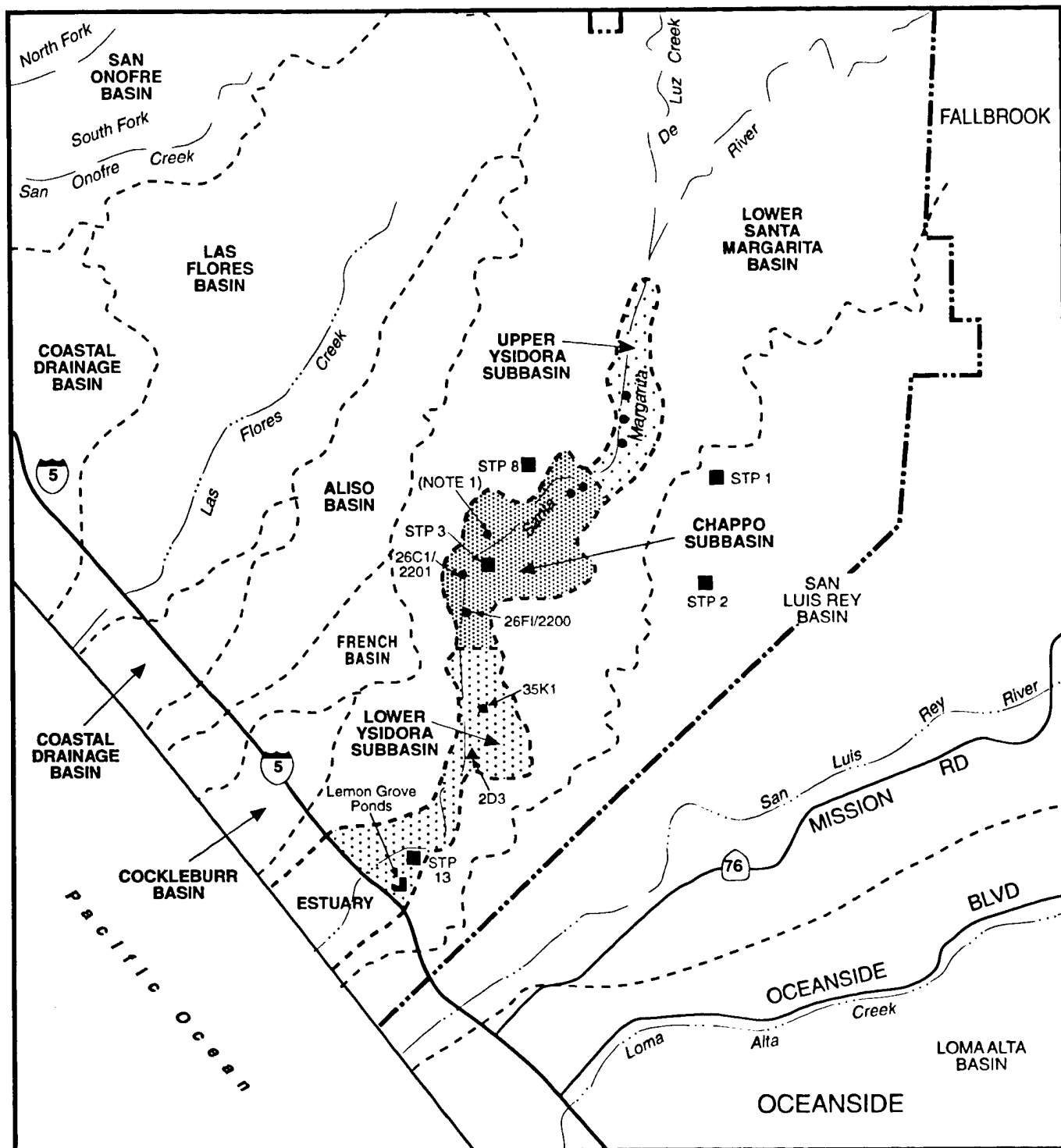
The existing hydrology and water quality of the Lower Santa Margarita Basin are described in the FEIS/R. Pertinent aspects are summarized below for this SEIS.

##### **3.1.1 Rainfall, Water Supply Basins, and Water Supply**

Annual rainfall along the coastal area near the southern boundaries of MCB Camp Pendleton averages 10 inches. Rainfall in the mountainous areas of the Base averages 20 to 40 inches annually, depending on slope and elevation (U.S. Navy 1992). Most precipitation occurs between November and April, but wide variations can take place in monthly and seasonal precipitation totals. Surface stream flow usually occurs only during the rainy season, but can be perennial within the Santa Margarita drainage.

Topography divides MCB Camp Pendleton into ten distinct watersheds, or basins, four of which are large enough to provide potable and irrigation water supplies to the Base. The proposed action would be located in the southwestern portion of the Lower Santa Margarita Basin, in the area defined in the Basin Plan as the Lower Ysidora Hydrologic Subarea (HSA), which is situated within the larger Ysidora Hydrologic Area (HA) (Figure 3-1).

The Lower Santa Margarita Basin is the most significant water producing basin within MCB Camp Pendleton. The Santa Margarita River traverses the Base four miles before meeting its De Luz Creek tributary. From this point, it then flows through a lush riparian canyon before it widens into a broad flood plain. In some areas, the Santa Margarita River flood plain is more than 2,600 feet wide. The river discharges into a salt water estuary, the Santa Margarita Lagoon, approximately one mile north of Oceanside Harbor. Local runoff flows recharge the basins until they overflow into the ocean. Groundwater movement is relatively slow. Hydraulic conductivities have been recorded to range from less than 25 feet per day to more than 100 feet per day. Surface waters from the basins



Source: MCB Camp Pendleton, 1995

#### LEGEND

- BASIN BOUNDARY
- CREEK / RIVER
- CAMP PENDLETON BOUNDARY

#### WATER SUPPLY WELLS:

- POTABLE
- ▲ AGRICULTURAL IRRIGATION
- OUT OF SERVICE

NOTE 1: 2 EXISTING POTABLE AND 2 NEW POTABLE

Figure 3-1

## Lower Santa Margarita Basin Subbasins/Water Supply Wells

percolate to subsurface layers and prevent seawater intrusion into the groundwater system that, without this barrier, would contaminate the water supply in the basins (MCB Camp Pendleton 1995).

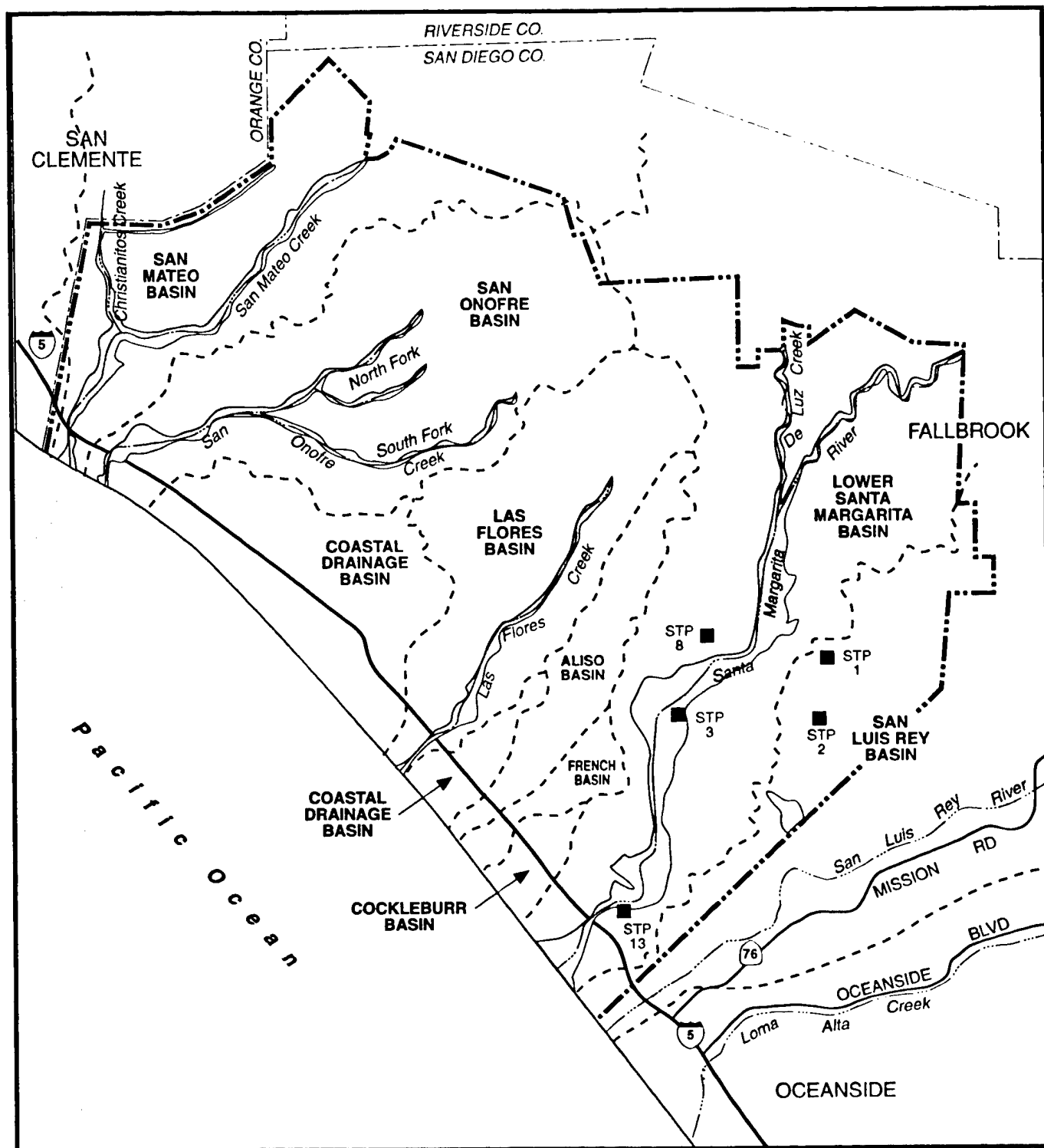
MCB Camp Pendleton derives all its water supply from existing groundwater resources within its boundaries. The Base's residential, military, and agricultural uses are accommodated by this water supply. The Santa Margarita River basin supplies more than 66 percent of all of MCB Camp Pendleton's water. The locations of water supply wells in the Lower Santa Margarita Basin are also shown in Figure 3-1.

Water is supplied to the agricultural fields from two wells, identified as 2D3 and 26F1; Well 26F1 is also known as Well 22-00. These wells do not supply the Base potable water system, and the water from these wells is not treated. Well 35K1, which was formerly used to supply the agricultural fields, is no longer in service. Well 2D3 is approximately 1.4 miles upstream from the Lemon Grove ponds and is the nearest of the three wells. The most southerly well which supplies water to the Base potable water system is Well 23-01, which is approximately 3.7 miles north of the Lemon Grove area.

### **3.1.2 Flood Plains**

Flood plains are relatively flat areas of low lands adjoining the channel of a river, stream, watercourse, bay or other body of water and are subject to inundation during a flood. Most flood plains in southern California are mapped to delineate the area that would be inundated during a storm that has a likelihood, based on historical records, of occurring once in 100 years, or a one percent change of occurring in any given year. These mapped areas are, therefore, referred to as 100-year flood plains. Figure 3-2 depicts the 100-year flood plain boundaries in the region of the proposed action. The 100-year flood boundaries are approximate limits based on historic records and high water marks and are not the result of a detailed hydrologic survey. The Lemon Grove ponds are at elevations above the 100-year flood level. Ysidora Flats, the area of proposed live stream discharge for Alternatives 2 and 3, is within the Santa Margarita River flood plain.

There were five significant damaging floods between 1916 and 1943 on Base land. More recent flooding has occurred in the years 1951, 1952, 1956, 1968-69, 1978, 1980, 1992-93 and February 1998. Major damage was inflicted on structures, roads, the rail line, STP 3, the oxidation/percolation ponds in the Ysidora Flats area, and other facilities in the Santa Margarita River Basin during the 1978, 1980, 1992-93, and 1998 storms.

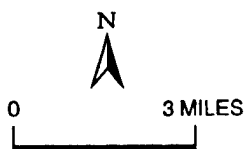


# **LEGEND**

- BASIN BOUNDARY
- CREEK / RIVER
- - - - CAMP PENDLETON BOUNDARY
- - - - COUNTY BOUNDARY
- ~~~~ FLOOD PRONE AREA

Figure 3-2

## **Drainage Basins and Flood Plains**



### 3.1.3 Existing Discharges in the Project Area

The average daily discharge of secondary treated effluent from STP 13 is currently 2.0 MGD. The effluent is conveyed to the Twin Lakes holding ponds adjacent to STP 13, prior to discharge, and then is conveyed by pipe to the Santa Margarita River flood plain. The release is classified as surface water discharge to the river. While the Twin Lakes ponds were not designed for direct recharge, some percolation occurs at the ponds as well as after the effluent is discharged to the river; these flows constitute a small groundwater discharge to the Lower Santa Margarita Basin.

The average daily discharge of secondary treated effluent from STP 3 is currently 0.4 MGD. The effluent is conveyed to a ditch south of STP 3 and approximately 1.5 miles north of the proposed Ysidora Flats discharge area, and is discharged to groundwater. Excess effluent spills from the ditch to the Santa Margarita River flood plain and is a surface water discharge to the river.

Secondary treated effluent from STP 1 is conveyed to a holding pond, and subsequently discharged in the Santa Margarita River Basin west of Vandegrift Boulevard and south of Lake O'Neill. Secondary treated effluent from STP 2 is used for irrigation of the Marine Memorial Golf Course, in the San Luis Rey Basin. Effluent from STP 2 that is excess to the irrigation needs at the golf course is conveyed to the Santa Margarita River Basin, west of Vandegrift Boulevard, in the Ysidora Flats area. Secondary treated effluent from STP 8 is conveyed to a holding pond, and subsequently discharged in the Santa Margarita River Basin, on the west side of the river.

### 3.1.4 Water Quality Regulations

Water quality issues and permits in San Diego County are regulated by USEPA, USFWS, USACOE, the California DHS, and the California State Water Resources Control Board (SWRCB) through the RWQCB for the San Diego region and the San Diego County Department of Environmental Health (DEH).

#### **Basin Plan**

The Basin Plan (RWQCB 1994) provides the regulations designed to protect and preserve water resources in the San Diego area. The Basin Plan designates "beneficial uses" of groundwater and surface water and establishes water quality "criteria" or "objectives" and implementation programs

necessary to achieve these water quality objectives. These beneficial use designations and water quality criteria/objectives are legally enforceable water quality standards.

Table 3-1 summarizes Basin Plan groundwater quality objectives of the Ysidora HA. The Basin Plan does not establish groundwater quality objectives west of the eastern boundary of I-5. The designated beneficial uses for groundwater are municipal supply, agricultural supply, industrial service supply, and industrial process supply. These beneficial uses do not apply to basin areas west of I-5. The Lemon Grove site is located adjacent to, and east of, this boundary. The proposed Ysidora Flats recharge area is located approximately 2.3 miles northeast and upstream from I-5.

**Table 3-1**  
**Basin Plan Groundwater Quality Objectives Ysidora Hydrologic Area**

Constituent	Units	Groundwater Quality Objective	
		Easterly of the Easterly Boundary of Interstate 5	Westerly of the Easterly Boundary of Interstate 5
TDS	mg/l	750 <sup>1</sup>	None
Chloride	mg/l	300 <sup>1</sup>	None
Sulfate	mg/l	300 <sup>1</sup>	None
Percent sodium	%	60	None
Nitrate	mg/l	10 <sup>1</sup>	None
Fluoride	mg/l	1.0	None
Iron	mg/l	0.3 <sup>1</sup>	None
Manganese	mg/l	0.05 <sup>1</sup>	None
MBAS	mg/l	0.5	None
Boron	mg/l	0.75 <sup>1</sup>	None
Odor	NA	None	None
Turbidity	NTU	5	None
Color	units	15	None

<sup>1</sup> The recommended plan would allow for measurable degradation of groundwater in the basin to permit continued agriculture land use. Point sources, however, would be controlled to achieve effluent quality corresponding to the tabulated numerical values. In future years, demineralization may be used to treat groundwater to the desired quality prior to use.

mg/l = milligrams per liter; NA = not applicable; NTU = turbidity units

There are no designated beneficial uses of inland surface waters of the Ysidora HA. The inland surface water quality objectives for the Ysidora HA are shown in Table 3-2. The designated beneficial uses of the Santa Margarita Lagoon are contact water recreation; non-contact water recreation; estuarine habitat; wildlife habitat; rare, threatened or endangered species habitat; marine habitat; and, migration of aquatic organisms.

**Table 3-2**  
**Basin Plan Inland Surface Water Quality Objectives, Ysidora Hydrologic Area**

Constituent	Units	Objective
TDS	mg/l	750
Chloride	mg/l	300
Sulfate	mg/l	300
Percent sodium	%	60
Nitrogen & Phosphorous	mg/l	Footnote 1
Fluoride	mg/l	1.0
Iron	mg/l	0.3
Manganese	mg/l	0.05
MBAS	mg/l	0.5
Boron	mg/l	0.75
Odor	–	None
Turbidity	NTU	20
Color	Units	20

<sup>1</sup> Concentrations of nitrogen and phosphorus, by themselves or in combination with other nutrients, shall be maintained at levels below those which stimulate algae and emergent plant growth. Threshold total Phosphorus (P) concentrations shall not exceed 0.05 mg/l in any stream at the point where it enters any standing body of water, nor 0.025 mg/l in any standing body of water. A desired goal in order to prevent plant nuisances in streams and other flowing waters appears to be 0.1 mg/l total P. These values are not to be exceeded more than 10% of the time unless studies of the specific body in question clearly show that water quality objective changes are permissible and changes are approved by the Regional Board. Analogous threshold values have not been set for nitrogen compounds; however, natural ratios of nitrogen to phosphorus are to be determined by surveillance and monitoring and upheld. If data are lacking, a ratio of N:P = 10:1 shall be used.

### Groundwater and Surface Water Discharge Permits

The RWQCB issues NPDES permits, which are federal permits for discharges of pollutants, including reclaimed water, to waters of the United States. The RWQCB also issues Waste Discharge Requirements, which are state permits for waste discharges to land or water, affecting the quality of waters of the state. NPDES permits also function as Waste Discharge Requirements. The RWQCB commonly consults with local, state, and federal agencies, such as wildlife agencies, in the issuance of permits.

On August 11, 1994, Order No. 94-51 (NPDES CA0108863), *Waste Discharge Requirements for the United States Marine Corps Camp Pendleton Five Wastewater Treatment Facilities Discharging Treated Waste in the Santa Margarita River Watershed, San Diego County*, was issued. This permit includes STPs 1, 2, 3, 8, and 13. Order 94-51 recognized the FEIS/R proposed action, which would have conveyed treated effluent by pipeline to the City of Oceanside ocean outfall. Order No. 94-51 regulates the discharge from the five STPs “. . . until such time that the proposed pipeline to the ocean outfall is constructed.” The City of Oceanside’s disapproval of the proposed agreement to provide MCB Camp Pendleton access to excess capacity within the City’s ocean outfall requires modification of this permit.

Additional federal and state laws relative to water quality include the following:

- Federal Clean Water Act of 1977 (33 U.S.C. § 1251 (1994));
- Federal Safe Drinking Water Quality Act of 1979 (42 U.S.C. § 300f (1994));
- State of California Porter-Cologne Water Quality Act (Cal. Water code §§ 13000-13999.10); and,
- California Safe Drinking Water and Toxic Enforcement Act (1986).

These laws are described in the FEIS/R, Appendix A.

#### **3.1.5 Water Quality**

The current water quality of the STP 1, 2, 3, 8, and 13 effluents is not acceptable for surface discharge. As described in Section 1 of this SEIS, the quality of the STP effluents has exceeded the limits established by the NPDES permits for surface water discharge, and Cease and Desist Order No. 94-52 is currently in effect for all five STPs.

Toxicity testing using effluent from each of the five STPs (1, 2, 3, 8, and 13) was conducted with fathead minnows, *Ceriodaphnia* and *Selenastrum*. Data from 1994 through 1996 indicated that effluent from STP 8 appeared to be fundamentally nonimpactive to the species tested. STPs 1 and 2 had moderate toxicity and STPs 3 and 13 exhibited more serious toxicity at lower test concentrations. Additional testing in 1997 indicated some chronic toxicity in excess of the 1.0 toxicity unit (TU) limit for each of the five treatment plants. These results suggest that effluent from the five STPs would likely not reliably pass the toxicity testing required as part of a new NPDES permit. A Toxicity Identification Evaluation (TIE) is currently being conducted for MCB Camp Pendleton using freshwater species and effluent from STPs 3 and 13. The TIE seeks to identify by



sequential evaluations the source(s) of toxicity so that they may be addressed. Typical sources of toxicity in wastewater are residual chlorine, ammonia, heavy metals, hydrocarbons, and organic compounds such as pesticides (Montgomery Watson 1998).

The quality of the Santa Margarita River water varies. A sample was taken in April 1995 at the Basilone Road bridge. This point is upstream of the discharges of STPs 1, 8, 3, and 13. Data from that sample is shown in Table 3-3; all values were within Basin Plan Objectives. Examination of earlier (1994) data shows Basin Plan objectives were exceeded for TDS and phosphates.

**Table 3-3**  
**Santa Margarita River Water Quality**

Constituent	Units	Basin Plan Objective <sup>1</sup>	Sample Data 4/11/95
TDS	mg/l	750	548
Chloride	mg/l	300	107
Percent Sodium	%	60	<56 <sup>2</sup>
Sulfate	mg/l	300	120
Nitrogen and Phosphorous		Footnote 3	
Fluoride	mg/l	1.0	0.4
Iron	mg/l	0.3	0.255
Manganese	mg/l	0.05	0.023
Boron	mg/l	0.5	0.099
MBAS	mg/l	0.5	<0.05
Turbidity	NTU	20	8.5
Color	units	20	11
Odor		none	<1 unit

<sup>1</sup> Water quality objectives for inland surface waters for the Ysidora HA. Concentrations not to be exceeded more than 10% of the time during any one-year period.

<sup>2</sup> %Na = Na/(Na + CA + Mg + K). No analysis for potassium was performed.

<sup>3</sup> Concentrations of nitrogen and phosphorus, by themselves or in combination with other nutrients, shall be maintained at levels below those which stimulate algae and emergent plant growth. Threshold total Phosphorous (P) concentrations shall not exceed 0.05 mg/l in any stream at the point where it enters any standing body of water, or 0.025 mg/l in any standing body of water. A desired goal in order to prevent public nuisances in streams and other flowing waters appears to be 0.1 mg/l total P. These values are not to be exceeded more than 10% of the time unless studies of the specific water body in question clearly show that water quality objective changes are permissible and changes are approved by the RWQCB.

Waters in the Santa Margarita River estuary are influenced by ocean tides up to one-half mile inland from I-5, including the zone underlying the Lemon Grove site, located east of I-5, which contains groundwater that is highly saline. Given tidal influences and the proximity of the site to the coast, concentrations of TDS in groundwater currently beneath the site are likely to exceed 20,000 mg/l.

Because of this poor groundwater quality and sea water intrusion, no wells currently exist at or near the Lemon Grove site. The U.S. Geological Survey (1954), however, identified several historic wells in the general vicinity of the Lemon Grove percolation pond site. Table 3-4 summarizes water quality samples collected in the early 1950s from these wells. As shown in the table, groundwater quality during the 1950s in the Lemon Grove area was extremely poor. (The recorded water quality at Well No. 11S/5W-9J1 is more saline than ocean water.) Because of this poor water quality, wells in and downstream from the Lower Ysidora narrows have been closed by MCB Camp Pendleton.

**Table 3-4**  
**Summary of Groundwater Quality**  
**Vicinity of Proposed Percolation/Equalization Pond<sup>1</sup>**

Well No.	Approximate Location	Status of Well	Approximate Date of Sample	Total Dissolved Solids Concentration (mg/l)
11S/5W-9J1	Adjacent to old Highway 101 within 500 feet of proposed percolation pond site	Destroyed	1951	36,100 <sup>2</sup>
11S/5W-2N4	Lower Ysidora Narrows at downstream end of Lower Ysidora basin, approximately 1 mile upstream from percolation pond site	Destroyed	1951	9,030 <sup>3</sup>

1 From U.S. Geological Survey (1954)

2 Concentrations for other constituents in the sample included 577 mg/l calcium, 1,420 mg/l magnesium, 11,000 mg/l sodium, 20,300 mg/l chloride, and 2,380 mg/l sulfate.

3 Concentrations for other constituents in the sample included 480 mg/l calcium, 289 mg/l magnesium, 2,500 mg/l sodium, 2,500 mg/l chloride, and 602 mg/l sulfate.

Leedshill Herkenhoff (1988) and NBS/Lowry (1989) presented a detailed summary of groundwater quality in the Lower Ysidora Basin, and described two wells located in the middle portion of the Lower Ysidora Basin. Well No. 11W/5S-2A3 is located above the Lower Ysidora Narrows in the Lower Ysidora groundwater basin. Concentrations of TDS in Well 11W/5S-2A3 have historically averaged 1,000 mg/l, and have ranged from 1,200 mg/l to 700 mg/l. Well No. 11W/5S-2D3 (2D3)

produced irrigation water with somewhat similar mineral characteristics. Almgren & Koptonak (1989) reported water quality of irrigation water used for the irrigation of the agricultural fields near Stuart Mesa. The data, from 1983, is shown in Table 3-5. Of these three, Wells 2D3 and 26F1/22-00 currently provide irrigation water. With the exception of Well No. 26F1/22-00, all of the other above data indicate that existing groundwater TDS concentrations exceed the Basin Plan objective of 750 milligrams per liter from the ocean upstream to the upper reaches of the Lower Ysidora subbasin.

**Table 3-5**  
**Chemical Quality Analysis of Water Samples From Wells 2D3, 35K1, and 26F1/22-00**

Constituent <sup>1</sup>	2D3	35K1	26F1/22-00
Date Sampled	11/13/83	12/14/83	12/13/83
Calcium	120	110	80
Magnesium	43	36	27
Sodium	182	176	126
Potassium	5	4	3
Carbonate	None	None	None
Bicarbonate	360	378	268
Chloride	212	250	149
Sulfate	267	151	135
Nitrate	<1	<1	<1
Nitrate-N	<0.3	<0.3	<0.3
Boron	0.3	0.5	0.4
Fluoride	0.5	0.5	0.6
Iron	0.2	2.1	0.2
Manganese	0.45	0.36	0.32
Total Hardness (as CaCO <sub>3</sub> )	475	410	310
Total Dissolved Solids (Summation) <sup>2</sup>	1,038	942	678
ph (units)	7.5	8.2	8.0
Electric Conductivity (micromhos/cm)	1,560	1,524	1,125
Sodium Adsorption Ratio (SAR)	3.6	3.6	3.1
Percent Sodium	45	48	47
Recommended Gypsum Application (Pounds of 100% Pure Gypsum or Equivalent Per Acre-Foot of Water)	1,006	1,334	866

<sup>1</sup> Units in milligrams per liter unless otherwise noted.

<sup>2</sup> Determined by Stetson Engineers Inc. based upon USGS method.

Source: Almgren & Koptonak, 1989.

## **3.2 CULTURAL RESOURCES**

### **3.2.1 Introduction**

Cultural resource investigations included an inventory and evaluation program of the proposed action and alternatives. The goal of this effort was to identify all cultural resources within the study areas and determine if these resources are eligible for nomination to the National Register of Historic Places (National Register). The percolation pond sites at Lemon Grove, the Ysidora Flats Recharge site, the equalization basin site, the AWT facility site, the proposed pipeline segments not in existing roadways, and the existing STP 2 site all comprise the study area for this proposed action. This information provided the basis for the assessment of impacts to significant cultural resources (those eligible for the National Register) that is included in Section 4.2. This effort is mandated by NEPA and the National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA), and their respective implementing regulations and guidelines. The action is a federal undertaking with MCB Camp Pendleton as federal lead agency for NHPA compliance.

Archaeological resources are prehistoric and historic sites, districts, or any other physical evidence of human activity considered significant to a culture, a subculture, or a community for scientific, traditional, religious, or any other reasons. Typical prehistoric archaeological resources are campsites, lithic material procurement sites, and food processing areas, while typical historic resources are early house sites and historic refuse areas. Archaeological resources, both prehistoric and historic, and historic standing structures 50 years or older, are commonly called cultural resources, but when determined eligible for nomination to the National Register, are referred to as historic properties under federal law.

### **3.2.2 Background**

The following brief prehistoric and historic background provides a context for understanding archaeological and historical resources in the region of the Proposed Action.

## Prehistory

### Paleoindian Period

Prehistoric people can be classified in a variety of ways. Recent studies in the region have focused on the sequence of Native American economic development. The earliest well-documented prehistoric sites in southern California are classified within the Paleoindian Period, which has locally been termed the San Dieguito complex/tradition. In this region, the Paleoindian period is thought to have occurred between 9,000 years ago (or earlier) and 8,000 years ago. Although varying from the well-defined fluted point Paleoindian complexes of the Great Plains, the San Dieguito tradition still features a hunting-focused economy with limited use of seed grinding technology. Archaeological evidence associated with this period has been found around dry inland lakes, on old terrace deposits of the California desert, and also along the coast where it was first documented at the Harris Site (near Lake Hodges).

Debate continues as to whether these people continued to occupy San Diego County or abandoned the region 8,000 years ago. According to both scenarios, the early occupants made use of coastal and inland resources of plants, animals, shellfish, and fish. Evidence of Paleoindian occupation in the immediate vicinity of the project is limited. Much of the coastal Paleoindian evidence has been covered by rising sea levels and alluvial sedimentation in valley areas. Evidence from this period has been preserved on some of the Channel Islands, however, and at isolated sites along the California coast.

### Archaic Period

Native Americans during the Archaic period had a generalized economic strategy based on hunting and gathering. In many parts of North America, Native Americans later replaced this economy with types based on horticulture and agriculture. Coastal southern California economies, however, remained largely based on wild resource use until European contact. Changes in hunting technology and other important elements of material culture have created two distinct subdivisions within the Archaic period in southern California. These are termed the Early and Late Archaic periods.

The Early Archaic period is differentiated from the earlier Paleoindian Period by a shift to a more generalized economy and an increased focus on the use of grinding and seed processing technology. At sites dated between approximately 8,000 and 1,500 years before present (B.P.), the increased use

of groundstone artifacts and atlatl dart points, along with a mixed core-based tool assemblage, identify a range of adaptations to a more diversified set of plant and animal resources. Variations of the Pinto and Elko series projectile points, large bifaces, manos and portable metates, core tools, and heavy use of marine invertebrates in coastal areas are characteristic of this period but many coastal sites show limited use of diagnostic atlatl points. Major changes in technology within this relatively long period of time appear limited. Several scientists have considered changes in projectile point styles and artifact frequencies within the Early Archaic period to be indicative of population movements or units of cultural change. These units have been poorly defined in the local area due to poor site preservation.

The Late Archaic period represents a continued focus on hunting and gathering of natural resources. It is separated from the Early Archaic by a series of major technological shifts including the introduction of the bow and arrow, cremation burial practices, and ceramics. The period extends from approximately 1,500 years B.P. to European contact. The changes in technology were introduced either by migrating peoples from the east, moving into the area and bringing their own cultural traits with them, or through cultural diffusion from contact with Native Americans to the east. Other cultural traits associated with these people include elaborate kinship systems, clan systems, rock art, and trading networks.

#### Ethnohistoric Period

The Ethnohistoric period refers to the brief period when Native American culture was initially being affected by Euroamerican culture and historical records focusing on Native American activities were limited. It thus represents a transition period between the prehistory and history of the area. When Spanish colonists began to settle California, the Camp Pendleton area was within the territory of a loosely integrated cultural group historically known as the Luiseño. They were called the Luiseño because of their association with the San Luis Rey Mission. The Luiseño speak a Takic language which links them with the Gabrieliño to the north and Cahuilla and Cupeño to the northeast and east, and differentiates them from the Kumeyaay, who speak a Yuman language, to the south.

The Luiseño further see themselves divided into three regional groups which included differences in culture and language dialect. One of these groups, associated with the San Juan Capistrano Mission and called Juaneño, has often been considered a separate cultural unit from the other two groups of Luiseño. European contact introduced disease that dramatically reduced the Native

America population and helped to break down cultural institutions. The transition to largely a Euroamerican lifestyle occurred relatively rapidly in the 19th Century.

## **History**

European exploration and settlement changed forever the Native American culture and landscape. Spanish military and religious contingents began settling the region in 1769, establishing a series of missions and presidios in California. The Mexican revolution changed the political status of the region, fostering a large hide and tallow industry. The mission system that was critical to the initial European settlement of the area was secularized in 1844 and lands were divided into private ranchos. The rancho system reached its peak during this period. The Mexican-American war resulted in control of California by the United States, and the discovery of gold in 1849 led to increased settlement.

Historical activity in the project area initially focused on the Santa Margarita Ranch, Guajome Ranch, and the San Luis Rey Mission. The mission area and surrounding valley developed into an agricultural community in the mid to late 1800s. The location of the railroad along the coast in the late 1800s shifted the focus of community activity from the mission area to the coast. Speculators, led by Andrew Myers, subdivided the coastal bluff along the railroad and established the City of Oceanside.

### **3.2.3 Cultural Resource Inventory Results**

A draft technical report summarizing the inventory results was prepared for this proposed action (York 1998). A search of recorded sites revealed that a total of 35 archaeological sites and five isolated finds have been recorded within one mile of the study areas. Most of these are located on Stuart Mesa and other terraces surrounding the Santa Margarita River, and most consist of scatters of prehistoric and historic artifacts and shell (Table 3-6). None of the sites are recorded within the Lemon Grove pond area, the AWT plant site, the discharge area at Ysidora Flats or STP 2.

Some of the sites identified in Table 3-6 are located along the pipeline corridor from STP 13 to Ysidora Flats, and were identified during the evaluation of cultural resources for the FEIS/R. Therefore, during the 1997-1998 installation of pipeline along this corridor, a cultural resources monitoring program was conducted, and significant resources were identified. Mitigation measures were implemented as required to avoid significant impact.

**Table 3-6**  
**Previously Recorded Cultural Resources within 1 Mile of Study Areas**

Site Numbers		Site Description	Date	Project Area
SCIC*	SDMOM**			
CA-SDI-4415		Shell scatter	1975	Ysidora Basin
CA-SDI-4416		Shell scatter/lithic scatter milling	1975	Ysidora Basin
CA-SDI-4417		Habitation site	1975	Ysidora Basin
CA-SDI-4423/H	W-2420	Lithic scatter/historic debris	1995	STP 13
CA-SDI-4424		Temporary camp	1995	STP 13
CA-SDI-4425	W-5337	Shell midden/lithic scatter	1995	STP 13
CA-SDI-4426		Shell scatter	1995	STP 13
CA-SDI-4427		Shell scatter/lithic scatter	1975	STP 13
CA-SDI-4544		Unknown	--	STP 13
CA-SDI-4545		Shell scatter	--	STP 13
CA-SDI-6049	W-1864	Lithic scatter	--	STP 2
CA-SDI-6907		Bedrock milling	1979	STP 2
CA-SDI-6908		Temporary camp, rock art	1979	STP 2
CA-SDI-8725		Bedrock milling	1980	STP 2
CA-SDI-8761/H		Shell/lithic scatter, historic debris	1992	STP 13
CA-SDI-8778	W-2226	Bedrock milling	1980	STP 2
CA-SDI-10,226/H	W-3557	Historic debris	1995	STP 13
CA-SDI-12,100	W-4950A	Temporary camp	1991	STP 2
CA-SDI-12,101	W-4951A	Habitation site	1991	STP 2
CA-SDI-12,102	W-4951B	Temporary camp	1991	STP 2
CA-SDI-12,103	W-4952	Lithic scatter	1991	STP 2
CA-SDI-12,568	W-4964A	Temporary camp with shell	1992	Ysidora Basin
CA-SDI-12,569	W-4964B	Habitation with shell	1992	Ysidora Basin
CA-SDI-12,572	W-4967A	Shell scatter/lithic scatter	1992	STP 2
CA-SDI-12,577	W-4964D	Temporary camp with shell	1992	Ysidora Basin
CA-SDI-12,631	W-5013	Lithic scatter	1995	STP 13
CA-SDI-12,632	W-5014	Lithic and shell scatter	1995	STP 13
CA-SDI-13,929		Shell scatter/lithic scatter	1995	STP 13
CA-SDI-13,930		Shell scatter/lithic scatter	1995	STP 13
CA-SDI-13,933		Shell scatter/lithic scatter	1994	STP 13
CA-SDI-13,940		Shell scatter	1995	STP 13
CA-SDI-14,005H		Rail road track	1994	Ysidora Basin
CA-SDI-14,006H		El Camino Real	1994	Ysidora Basin
I-316		Unknown	1991	STP 2
I-411	W-4962	Metavolcanic core tool	1992	STP 2
I-412	W-4964C	Flakes	1992	Ysidora Basin
I-415	W-4967B	Metavolcanic core	1992	STP 13
I-419		Metavolcanic core tool	1992	STP 13
SS-2		Unknown	--	--
SS-3		Unknown	--	--

\* South Coastal Information Center

\*\* San Diego Museum of Man



### **Lemon Grove Study Area**

Intensive survey of the Lemon Grove study area revealed no historic or prehistoric cultural resources, a finding consistent with previous investigations on this parcel (Clevenger et al. 1992; Welch 1975).

### **AWT Plant Study Area**

The study area for the AWT facility is located on top of the terrace immediately east of STP 13 and the base recycling center. Measuring about 350 feet by 400 feet (3.2 acres), this area is covered with grass and sage scrub, with evidence of substantial disturbance by heavy equipment. Intensive survey of the AWT study area revealed no prehistoric or historic cultural resources.

### **Ysidora Flats Discharge Area**

The Ysidora Flats discharge area, from west of Vandegrift Boulevard to the Santa Margarita River, was heavily disturbed in late 1997 as part of a wetlands restoration project. No prehistoric or historic cultural resources have been identified in this area.

### **STP 2 AWT Plant Site**

The STP 2 site is located within the existing fenced area for STP 2. This site was included in the Area of Potential Effect (APE) and survey area for the FEIS/R. The point of connection with the STP 1 effluent pipeline across Pilgrim Creek was also included in the APE and survey area for the FEIS/R. No prehistoric or historic cultural resources have been identified in either of these areas.

### **STP 13 to Ysidora Flats Pipeline Corridor**

As described above, significant cultural resources were identified along this corridor prior to and during construction of the existing pipeline.

### **3.3 BIOLOGICAL RESOURCES**

Information in this section of the SEIS is summarized from the Supplemental Biological Technical Report, Appendix B.

#### **3.3.1 Survey Methods**

##### **Data Sources and References**

Background information for this document stems from the original FEIS/R for the Santa Margarita Sewage Effluent Treatment Project (1997), and the following two U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACOE) permit documents: Section 404 Permit File # 96-000067-ES, February 25, 1997 (Base Realignment and Closure (BRAC) project permit); and, Section 404 Permit File # 96-00129-ES, April 6, 1998 (Levee project permit). The BRAC project is the realignment to MCAS/MCB Camp Pendleton; the Levee project is the combination of the Santa Margarita River Flood Control Project (P-010) and the Basilone Road Bridge Replacement Project (P-030).

Ysidora Flats and STP 2 were surveyed in 1992 as part of this initial project. Information on these two sites was evaluated based on existing biological information within the appendices of the original P-527B FEIS/R as well as current photographs of the site. Additionally the BRAC Wetlands Mitigation Project report (Tierra Data Systems 1997) was used to evaluate existing conditions of the Ysidora Flats site. The AWT Facility/Equalization Basin site was surveyed on foot.

##### **Survey Methods and Limitations**

The study area was surveyed for the presence of sensitive species on December 23, 1997 and March 11, 1998. Sensitive species are those listed by the federal and state government and other wildlife monitoring agencies. The field investigation included a general biological site reconnaissance and identification of potential habitat for sensitive species. Biological resources were mapped in the field using 1:2,400 scale topographic Base maps of the project area issued by Camp Pendleton Public Works Office. The biological resources were also evaluated based on existing biological information within the appendices of the original P-527B FEIS/R and data sources for the project vicinity (i.e., Camp Pendleton mapping and the California Natural Diversity Data Base "Rarefind").

Plant species were identified by direct observation. Animal species were identified by both direct observation and indirect sign (i.e., scat, tracks, calls, nests, and burrows). Scientific nomenclature used throughout this report conforms to Hickman, ed. (1993) and Skinner and Pavlik (1994) for plants, Holland (1986) for vegetation communities, and Laudenslayer et al. (1991) for wildlife.

All plant species encountered during the botanical surveys were identified in the field or sampled and identified in a laboratory setting. A floral inventory that includes all plant species detectable during the late fall/early winter survey period was compiled and is included in the Supplemental Biological Technical Report in Appendix B.

Wildlife surveys were conducted on December 23 and 29, 1997 and March 11, 1998 and consisted of walking meandering transects through the various habitats within the focused study area. A wildlife species inventory was compiled for species encountered during the surveys and is included in Appendix B. Least Bell's vireo (*Vireo bellii pusillus*), and southwestern willow flycatcher (*Empidonax traillii extimus*) data were acquired from Griffiths 1997, coastal California gnatcatcher (*Poliophtila californica californica*) data from Griffiths 1994, and arroyo southwestern toad (*Bufo microscaphus californicus*) data from Holland 1997. Information about the Quino checkerspot butterfly (*Euphydryas editha quino*) was gathered from Redak et al. (1997) and Riverside fairy shrimp (*Streptocephalus woottoni*) and San Diego fairy shrimp (*Branchinecta sandiegoensis*) map data were obtained from MCB Camp Pendleton's digital files.

### **3.3.2 Environmental Setting**

The topography and soil types within the four sites (discussed below) varies considerably, since they are non-contiguous areas situated throughout the southwest portion of MCB Camp Pendleton.

The AWT Facility site consists of a generally flat mesa adjacent to the east side of STP 13, and northwest of the Recycling Center. The equalization basin site occurs on the same mesa just south of the recycling center and north of the Base's Commissary. The elevation of these sites ranges from approximately 40 to 45 feet above Mean Sea Level (MSL). The soils of both sites are sandy loams of the Visalia series (USDA 1973). The Ysidora Flats site is located within the floodplain of the Santa Margarita River. The elevation of the site ranges from 25 to 30 feet above MSL. Greenfield sandy loams and Salinas clay are the soils onsite (USDA 1973). STP 2 occurs on the slopes above and to the west of Pilgrim Creek. The elevation of the site ranges from approximately 100 to 140 feet above MSL. Bonsall sandy loams and Tujunga sand are the soils onsite (USDA 1973).

#### 3.3.3 Description of Biotic Resources

##### **Vegetation Communities**

Vegetation types or communities and plant associations are assemblages of plant species that usually coexist in the same area. The existing plant associations occurring within and adjacent to the focused study area consist of the following community types: Diegan coastal sage scrub, southern willow riparian forest; southern willow scrub; mule fat scrub; southern coastal salt marsh disturbed wetlands; non-native annual grassland; ruderal habitat; eucalyptus woodland/exotic trees; and, developed/ornamental areas. These plant associations are generally described below and are shown in Figures 3-3 through 3-5.

##### Upland Communities

##### *Diegan Coastal Sage Scrub*

Coastal sage scrub is one of the major shrub-dominated (scrub) communities within California. This community occurs on dry sites with shallow soils. Sage scrub species are typically drought deciduous plants with shallow root systems. Both of these adaptations allow for the occurrence of sage scrub species on xeric sites.

There are four floristic associations within the coastal sage scrub formation, all occurring within distinct geographical ranges along the California coast. The Diegan association occurs from Orange County to northwestern coastal Baja California (O'Leary 1990). Oberbauer (1996) recognizes coastal and inland forms of this association.

Diegan coastal sage scrub may be dominated by a variety of different species depending upon site-specific topographic, geographic, and soil conditions. Within San Diego County, there are several recognized sub-associations of Diegan coastal sage scrub, with classifications based upon the dominant species. California sagebrush (*Artemisia californica*) dominated sage scrub and disturbed coastal sage scrub occur along the bluffs, north and northwest of the Lemon Grove percolation ponds. Other species that were observed to be common within these sub-types include coastal goldenbush (*Isocoma menziesii* var. *vernonoides*), laurel sumac (*Malosma laurina*), Mexican elderberry (*Sambucus mexicana*), coastal prickly pear (*Opuntia littoralis*), and cane cholla (*Opuntia parryi* var. *parryi*).



Figure 3-3

## Vegetation & Sensitive Species for Lemon Grove



**Vegetation Legend:**

SWRF - Southern Willow  
Riparian Forest  
EW - Eucalyptus Woodland  
DEV - Developed

Source: Base Aerial Coverage: Southwest Division  
Vegetation Communities: P-527 FEIS/R, 1997  
SWWF and LBV Data: 1997 Griffith Data

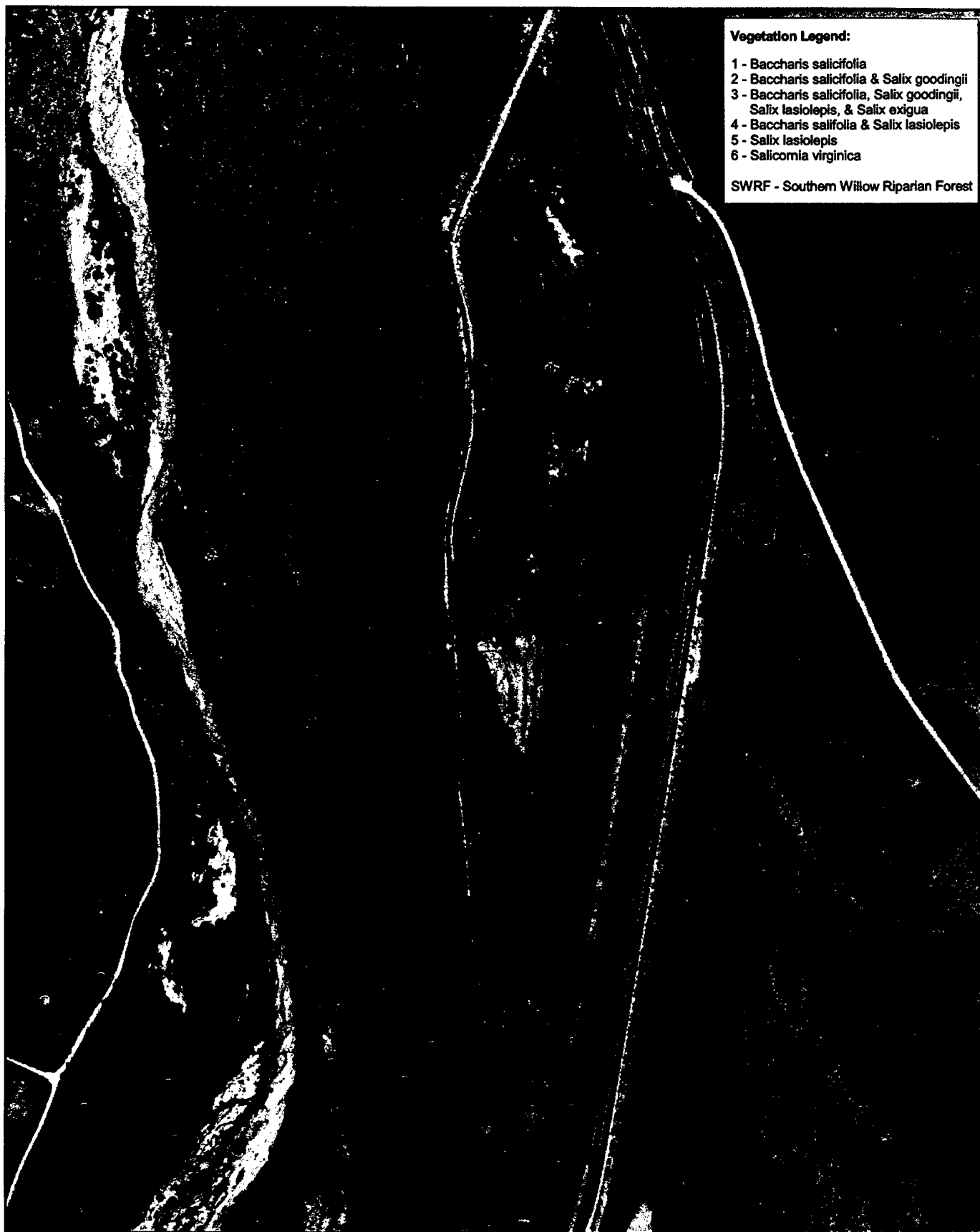
**Sensitive Species**

- Least Bell's Vireo Sighting
- Southwest Willow Flycatcher Sighting
- Gnatcatcher Sighting (1994)

∕∕ Vegetation Community Boundary

Figure 3-4

## Vegetation & Sensitive Species for STP 2



**Vegetation Legend:**

- 1 - *Baccharis salicifolia*
- 2 - *Baccharis salicifolia* & *Salix goodingii*
- 3 - *Baccharis salicifolia*, *Salix goodingii*,  
*Salix lasiolepis*, & *Salix exigua*
- 4 - *Baccharis salifolia* & *Salix lasiolepis*
- 5 - *Salix lasiolepis*
- 6 - *Salicornia virginica*

SWRF - Southern Willow Riparian Forest

Source: Base Aerial Coverage: Southwest Division  
Vegetation Communities: Southwest Division  
SWWF and LBV Data: 1997 Griffith Data



300 0 300 600 900 Feet

**Sensitive Species**

- Least Bell's Vireo Sighting
- Southwest Arroyo Toad Sighting
- Gnatcatcher Sighting (1994)
- Southwest Willow Flycatcher Sighting

∧ Vegetation Community Boundary

Figure 3-5  
**Vegetation & Sensitive  
Species of Ysidora Flats**

### Riparian and Wetland Communities

Riparian communities occur along stream courses and drainages and are floristically and structurally distinct from the adjacent upland communities. Riparian communities may be floristically similar to each other, but may differ sufficiently in structure to warrant different classifications (forests, woodlands, scrub). Most of the dominant species in these communities require moist, bare mineral soils for germination and establishment, much like the conditions following periodic flooding (Holland 1986). Riparian and wetland communities that occur either on or adjacent to the project site(s) include southern willow riparian forest, southern willow scrub and mule fat scrub. The majority of these communities are dominated by willows (*Salix* sp.) and mulefat (*Baccharis salicifolia*). However, giant reed (*Arundo donax*), a noxious weed, is invading these native wetland communities, particularly within the Santa Margarita River Watershed, displacing native plant and animal species, including sensitive species. Often, riparian and wetland communities are regulated by the USACOE if the three parameters, hydrology, hydric soils and hydrophytic vegetation, are present. Jurisdictional wetlands boundaries are determined through jurisdictional delineations. The following discussion pertains to wetlands of undetermined jurisdictional status.

#### *Southern Willow Riparian Forest*

Southern willow riparian forests are tall, open forests along major streams and rivers that are dominated by several willow species including: arroyo willow (*Salix lasiolepis*), Goodding's black willow (*Salix gooddingii*) and narrow-leaved willow (*Salix exigua*). Understory species such as mule fat, mugwort (*Artemisia douglasiana*), and stinging nettle (*Urtica dioica* ssp. *holosericea*), may also be present (Beauchamp 1986). This community occurs along Pilgrim Creek adjacent to the STP 2 site. It also surrounds the mitigation site for the BRAC and Levee projects along the Santa Margarita River within the former Ysidora Ponds. The proposed Ysidora Flats discharge site is included in the mitigation site. One objective of this mitigation project is onsite natural recruitment of native riparian vegetation, including southern willow riparian forest. Natural recruitment of native riparian species and exclusion of exotic weeds is being monitored for at least five years.

#### *Southern Willow Scrub*

Southern willow scrub is found on loose, sandy, or fine gravelly alluvium deposited near stream channels during floods. Most stands are too dense to allow much understory to develop. Southern willow scrub may represent a successional stage leading to riparian woodland or may be stable. This community is generally dominated by arroyo willow and, occasionally, Goodding's black willow,



narrow-leaved willow, and mule fat. This community currently occurs between Vandegrift Boulevard and the former Ysidora Ponds as well as on some of the former pond berms that remain after the ponds were removed for the BRAC mitigation project. Southern willow scrub had previously occurred in patches throughout the Ysidora Ponds site along the Santa Margarita River.

#### *Mule Fat Scrub*

Mule fat scrub is a riparian shrub community that is dominated by mule fat in association with arroyo willow and Goodding's black willow. In the absence of frequent flooding and human-caused disturbance, this community may develop into a riparian woodland or forest (Holland 1986). This community is adjacent to the former Ysidora Ponds site, which is currently a mitigation site for the BRAC and Levee projects, and had occurred in some areas in the current mitigation site.

#### *Southern Coastal Salt Marsh*

Coastal salt marsh occupies wetland habitats that are subject to tidal influence and to varying degrees of freshwater input, primarily during the rainy season. Because of their coastal location they are also subject to salt spray. Salt marsh plants are mostly herbaceous perennials and low shrubs which are tolerant of both flooding and high salt content (Zedler et al. 1997). Coastal salt marsh plants are distributed along distinct zones depending upon such environmental factors as frequency and length of tidal inundation, salinity levels, and nutrient status (MacDonald 1977). The common species of the salt marshes of Camp Pendleton are: pickleweed (*Salicornia subterminalis*), (*S. virginica*), alkali heath (*Frankenia salina*) and salt grass (*Distichlis spicata*). The Santa Margarita River Estuary is the major salt marsh at Camp Pendleton covering approximately 159 acres (Zedler et al. 1997).

#### *Disturbed Wetlands*

Disturbed wetlands are communities that are dominated by exotic wetland species. These species invade sites that have previously been disturbed or are periodically disturbed. This perturbation regime has resulted in the displacement of native wetland species and the subsequent colonization of these areas by exotics. Disturbed wetlands are dominated by cocklebur (*Xanthium strumarium* var. *canadense*), umbrella sedge (*Cyperus* sp.), and curly dock (*Rumex crispus*). Disturbed wetlands occur in some areas around the mitigation site at the former Ysidora Ponds in some areas less than and also between the former ponds and Vandegrift Boulevard.

## Grassland Communities

### *Non-native Annual Grassland*

Most of the grasslands in the coastal and foothill areas of San Diego County are dominated by exotic annual grasses of Mediterranean origin. The factors that contributed to the replacement of native grasslands by non-native grasslands, are many. The Mediterranean region has a maritime climate similar to that of much of cismontane California. The Mediterranean region has a long history of agriculture and grazing activities and many of these introduced species are disturbance associated. Many of these species are thus pre-adapted to areas with similar climates and disturbance regimes. Intensive grazing and agriculture, accidental and intentional species introductions, along with some severe droughts during the early Spanish Era, allowed for the successful invasion of these exotic species and the subsequent displacement and exclusion of native grasses. It was initially believed that over grazing was the principle factor in the displacement of native grasses but there is considerable current debate over this. This association may have replaced native grassland and coastal sage scrub, as evidenced at many localities throughout San Diego County. Wild oats (*Avena barbata*) was the only grass species identifiable at the time of the survey within all the surveyed grasslands, but other exotic grass species such as red brome (*Bromus madritensis* ssp. *rubens*), ripgut grass (*Bromus diandrus*), and foxtail fescue (*Vulpia megalura*) are expected to locally dominate this community onsite. Characteristic forbs include sweet fennel (*Foeniculum vulgare*), red-stemmed filaree (*Erodium cicutarium*), and mustard (*Hirschfeldia incana*).

### *Ruderal*

Areas of high and frequent soil disturbance that are generally bare or are dominated by non-native weedy forbs (herbaceous, non-grass species) that are adapted to a regime of frequent disturbances are classified as ruderal. Ruderal areas onsite consist of disturbed lands that have been completely invaded by weedy forbs (most abundantly, sweet fennel). Many of the species characteristic of ruderal areas are also indicator species of annual grasslands. Telegraph weed (*Heterotheca grandiflora*), mustard, sweet fennel, deer weed (*Lotus scoparius*), and red-stemmed filaree are the dominant species within the ruderal areas onsite.

#### Eucalyptus Woodland/Exotic Trees

This community is dominated by several species of gum trees or eucalyptus (*Eucalyptus* sp.). These introduced tree species produce large amounts of leaf and bark litter, the chemical composition of which inhibits the establishment of other species, especially natives, in the understory. Generally, these species were planted for aesthetic and horticultural purposes, but many species of eucalyptus have become naturalized and have been quite successful in invading riparian areas.

#### Developed/Ornamental Areas

Developed/ornamental plant associations can be found in those portions of the study area that have been developed and support structures, or that have been planted with ornamentals, e.g. at STP 2.

#### **Plant Associations for the Alternative Sites and Associated Pipelines**

This section provides site-specific information about the plant associations described above, including acreages and locations within the focused study area.

#### Advanced Water Treatment Facility and Equalization Basin

The AWT site is developed with 0.4 acre of ornamentals and 0.6 acre of non-native grassland. The 1.0 acre Equalization Basin study area is entirely non-native grassland (see Figure 3-3). The proposed AWT facility at STP 13 is a component of Alternatives 3, 4 and 5. The proposed equalization basin at STP 13 is a component of Alternatives 4 and 5.

#### Sewage Treatment Plant 2

The STP 2 study area is a ruderal 1.0 acre area within an existing developed area. The proposed site is adjacent to southern willow riparian forest habitat along Pilgrim Creek (see Figure 3-4). The proposed equalization basin and tertiary treatment facility at STP 2 is a component of Alternative 2.

#### Ysidora Flats

Two sets of percolation ponds at Ysidora Basin, the Ysidora Ponds, were previously located along the Santa Margarita River between the river and Vandegrift Boulevard. Floods in 1993 breached

the pond berms in several places. Subsequently, riparian vegetation became established on the site on which the ponds were located. The previously noted BRAC and Levee projects resulted in impacts to jurisdictional wetlands and riparian habitats. To mitigate for these impacts, wetlands are being created within the area of the former Ysidora Ponds. The berms that formed the ponds that were breached in 1993 were partly removed in 1997 to re-establish the natural floodplain of the Santa Margarita River. While the mitigation site for the BRAC and Levee projects is currently (1998) in its first monitoring year, a mitigation plan is currently being prepared by the Marine Corps. According to permits issued by the USACOE on February 25, 1997 for the BRAC project, and on April 6, 1998 for the Levee project, mitigation objectives are as follows:

- create riparian habitat and jurisdictional wetlands by establishing appropriate hydrologic regimes and opportunity for natural recruitment of riparian vegetation;
- for five years after initiation of mitigation monitoring, control the invasion of noxious weeds (as specified in the USACOE permit), monitor the recruitment of native riparian vegetation and avifauna, and monitor hydrology and nutrient content; and
- by the end of the fifth monitoring year and for an additional twelve consecutive months, the site shall contain less than five percent relative cover of exotic species.

## **Wildlife**

One invertebrate species, one amphibian species, one reptile species, 27 bird species, and three mammal species were observed during the surveys for this proposed project. A complete list of wildlife species is included in the Supplemental Biological Technical Report in Appendix B.

### **3.3.4 Sensitive Biological Resources**

The study area was evaluated for the extent, quality, and significance of existing sensitive biological resources.

#### **Sensitive Plant Species**

Sensitive plants include those listed by the USFWS (1997a, 1997b), California Department of Fish and Game (CDFG) (1997a), and those plant species designated as rare, threatened, or endangered in California and elsewhere (List 1B species) by the California Native Plant Society (CNPS)

in California and elsewhere (List 1B species) by the California Native Plant Society (CNPS) (Skinner and Pavlik, 1994). No sensitive species were observed on the AWT Facility/Equalization Basin site and due to the lack of native habitat on this site, no sensitive plant species are expected to occur there. No sensitive plant species were found at the STP 2 and Ysidora Flats sites during surveys for the FEIS/R.

Table 3-7 lists the more highly sensitive plant species known to occur on Camp Pendleton, if there is appropriate habitat within a study area, along with their sensitivity status and comments on their potential for occurrence onsite (see the footnotes to Table 3-7 for an explanation of the USFWS, CDFG, and CNPS designations).

#### **Sensitive Animal Species**

Sensitive animal species are those listed by the USFWS (1996a, 1997a, 1997b) and those listed by the CDFG (1997b) as sensitive for the reasons described earlier. The USFWS officially lists sensitive species as either threatened or endangered and, unofficially, lists other sensitive species as Federal Species of Special Concern. Several sensitive animal species were observed onsite or are known from immediately adjacent to the site(s). The sensitive wildlife species observed, or that have a potential for occurrence onsite, are listed in Table 3-7 along with their sensitivity status and comments on their distribution (see the footnotes to Table 3-7 for an explanation of the sensitivity designations). These federally listed species are discussed below.

#### California Gnatcatcher

One pair of coastal California gnatcatchers was observed in the sage scrub immediately north of the Lemon Grove Percolation Ponds. Base-wide data indicate that the coastal sage scrub north and east of the site has supported the species. Base-wide data also indicates that this species occurs east and west of STP 2 (Griffith Wildlife Biology 1994).

#### Arroyo Southwestern Toad

The arroyo southwestern toad is known from the Santa Margarita River Basin and from upland locations north of the Santa Margarita River Basin near Stuart Mesa. The arroyo southwestern toad is not known to occur at Ysidora Flats, nor has it been reported from Pilgrim Creek near STP 2 as described in the FEIS/R.

**Table 3-7**  
**Listed and Sensitive Species with Known or Potential Occurrence**  
**on or Adjacent to the P-527B Sewage Effluent Compliance Study Area**

Species Name	USFWS Status*	CDFG Status*	Other*	On-Site Occurrence or Potential
<b>Plants</b>				
Thread-Leaved Brodiaea ( <i>Brodiaea filifolia</i> )	PT	E	CNPS 1B, 3-3-3	This species is known to occur on Camp Pendleton. Thread-leaved brodiaea has a low potential to occur in the grasslands of the Lemon Grove study area due to the lack of clay soils. Spring surveys are needed to determine presence or absence of this species onsite.
Orcutt's Brodiaea ( <i>Brodiaea orcuttii</i> )			CNPS 1B, 1-3-2	This species has recently been reported on Camp Pendleton [north of the 25 Area, south of Kilo 2 (KEA 1998)]. Orcutt's brodiaea has a low potential to occur within the Lemon Grove study areas in vernal moist grasslands, swales, or streamside habitat.
Blochman's Dudleya ( <i>Dudleya blochmaniae</i> ssp. <i>blochmaniae</i> )			CNPS 1B, 2-2-2	Known to occur on Camp Pendleton. This species occurs in sandy openings of coastal sage scrub near the coast. This species has a moderate potential for occurrence in the undisturbed sage scrub on the Lemon Grove study area, but was not observed during the survey.
Many-Stemmed Dudleya ( <i>Dudleya multicaulis</i> )			CNPS 1B, 1-2-3	Known to occur on Camp Pendleton. This species occurs in openings of the ecotonal transitional areas between sage scrub and grasslands. This species has a moderate potential for occurrence in the undisturbed sage scrub on the Lemon Grove study area, but was not observed during the survey.
Coast Wallflower ( <i>Erysimum amophilum</i> )			CNPS 1B, 2-2-3	Known to occur on Camp Pendleton. The taxonomy of this entity in San Diego County is uncertain (i.e. populations previously identified as this species may be <i>E. capitatum</i> ). Populations of this species have been previously identified in close proximity to the Lemon Grove study area. This "species" would have a high potential for occurrence within the undisturbed sage scrub of this study area, but was not observed during the survey.
Southwestern Spiny Rush ( <i>Juncus acutus</i> ssp. <i>leopoldii</i> )			CNPS 4, 1-2-1	This species is known to occur on Camp Pendleton at the mouth of the Santa Margarita River Estuary.
Del Mar Sand Aster ( <i>Lessingia filaginifolia</i> var. <i>linifolia</i> )			CNPS 1B, 3-2-3	Known to occur on Camp Pendleton. This species occurs in sandy coastal areas (both disturbed and chaparral habitats). Del Mar sand aster was not observed during the surveys and is expected to have a low potential for occurrence in the sandy areas of the study areas.
Cleveland's Goldenstar ( <i>Muilla clevelandii</i> )			CNPS 1B, 2-2-2	This species is not reported to occur on Camp Pendleton. Cleveland's goldenstar occurs in grasslands and adjacent to vernal pools in areas of clay substrates. This species has a low potential for occurrence within the Lemon Grove study area, but was not observed during the survey.
<b>Fish</b>				
Tidewater Goby ( <i>Eucyclogobius Newberryi</i> )	E			This species is historically known from the Santa Margarita River Estuary, but has not been reported from there since 1991.

### 3.3 Biological Resources

Species Name	USFWS Status*	CDFG Status*	Other*	On-Site Occurrence or Potential
<b>Invertebrates</b>				
Monarch Butterfly ( <i>Danaus plexippus</i> )		SA-Over-wintering		Observed approximately 50 individuals airborne within the eucalyptus woodland at the Lemon Grove site.
Quino Checkerspot Butterfly ( <i>Euphydryas editha quino</i> )	E			Not known to occur on Camp Pendleton.
Riverside Fairy Shrimp ( <i>Streptocephalus woottoni</i> )	E			Not known to occur on Camp Pendleton.
San Diego Fairy Shrimp ( <i>Branchinecta sandiegoensis</i> )	E			Not known to occur on Camp Pendleton.
<b>Amphibians</b>				
Arroyo Southwestern Toad ( <i>Bufo microscaphus californicus</i> )	E	SSC		Known to occur on Camp Pendleton within the Santa Margarita River basin.
<b>Birds</b>				
Golden Eagle ( <i>Aquila chrysaetos</i> )	P			Although no golden eagles were observed within the study area, the species may occasionally forage in the grassland habitats onsite. No nesting is expected in the project vicinity.
Coastal California Gnatcatcher ( <i>Poliophtila californica californica</i> )	T	SSC		One pair of gnatcatchers were observed in the coastal sage scrub at the Lemon Grove site immediately north of the ponds.
Least Bell's Vireo ( <i>Vireo bellii pusillus</i> )	E	E		Known to occur at Camp Pendleton. Current data indicate that least Bell's vireo occupy the narrow band of southern willow scrub adjacent to the north end of the Lemon Grove site. This species is also known to occur in the Santa Margarita River at Ysidora Flats adjacent to the outfall facility and along Pilgrim Creek adjacent to Sewage Treatment Plant #2.
Southwestern Willow Flycatcher ( <i>Empidonax traillii extimus</i> )	E			This species is known to occur in the Santa Margarita River at Ysidora Flats adjacent to the outfall facility.
Great Blue Heron ( <i>Ardea herodias herodias</i> )		SA-Rookery	Everett-S	No suitable nesting habitat occurs within the study area.
Turkey Vulture ( <i>Cathartes aura</i> )			Everett-D	One turkey vulture was observed circling over the Lemon Grove site, where it likely forages for carrion.
Osprey ( <i>Pandion haliaetus</i> )		SSC-Breeding		Not likely to nest within the study area due to a lack of suitable habitat.
White-tailed Kite ( <i>Elanus coeruleus majusculus</i> )		SA-Nesting		Observed at the Lemon Grove site. Not likely to nest within the study area due to a lack of appropriate habitat.

Species Name	USFWS Status*	CDFG Status*	Other*	On-Site Occurrence or Potential
Loggerhead Shrike ( <i>Ianius ludovicianus</i> )		SSC		One loggerhead shrike was observed in the ruderal habitat at the south end of the Lemon Grove site.

\*Status Codes:

U.S. Fish and Wild Service (USFWS)

E = Endangered; T = Threatened; PE = Proposed Endangered; PT = Proposed Threatened

California Department of Fish and Game (CDFG)

E = Endangered; T = Threatened; FP = Fully Protected; SA = Special Animal; SSC = Species of Special Concern

California Native Plant Society (CNPS) (Skinner and Pavlik 1994)

List 1B - Plants rare and endangered in California and elsewhere

CNPS R-E-D Code

R (Rarity): 1 = Rare, but found in sufficient numbers and distributed widely enough that the potential for extinction or extirpation is low at this time; 2 = Occurrence confined to several populations or to one extended population; 3 = Occurrence limited to one or a few highly restricted populations, or present in such numbers that it is seldom reported

E (Endangerment): 1 = Not endangered; 2 = Endangered in a portion of its range; 3 = Endangered throughout its range

D (Distribution): 1 = More or less wide spread outside California; 2 = Rare outside California; 3 = Endemic to California

Everett-D = Declining

Everett-S = Sensitive

### Least Bell's vireo

Current Base-wide least Bell's vireo survey results indicate that the species occupy suitable nesting habitat adjacent to the Lemon Grove site in the narrow strip of southern willow scrub west of the Twin Lakes Reservoirs and east of the proposed seasonal discharge pipeline turnout area (Griffith Wildlife Biology 1997). The Base-wide study also indicates that least Bell's vireo occupy habitat along Pilgrim Creek immediately to the east of STP 2 and along the Santa Margarita River at Ysidora Flats as described in the FEIS/R.

### Southwestern Willow Flycatcher

The southwestern willow flycatcher is known from the Santa Margarita River immediately west of the Ysidora Flats outfall facility site and is documented in the FEIS/R. This species is also known from Pilgrim Creek, south of STP 2 (Griffith Wildlife Biology 1997).



#### **Non-Federally Sensitive Animal Species**

##### Monarch Butterfly

During project surveys of the study area, groves of eucalyptus trees suitable for monarch butterfly wintering habitat were noted at the north end of the Lemon Grove site. Within the eucalyptus grove, approximately 50 monarch butterflies were observed flying around the trees 10 to 20 feet off the ground in five clusters of approximately 10 individuals each. No host plants were detected due to the timing of the survey.

##### Loggerhead Shrike

One loggerhead shrike was observed perched in the ruderal habitat on the south end of the Lemon Grove site. This species would be expected to forage over the non-native grasslands of STP 13.

#### **Sensitive Habitats**

Sensitive habitats are those which are considered rare within the region or support sensitive plants or animals. The sensitive habitats on or adjacent to the sites are: Diegan coastal sage scrub and riparian and wetland habitats (i.e., southern willow riparian forest, southern willow scrub, mule fat scrub, and disturbed wetlands). Riparian and wetland habitats would only be considered sensitive if these communities would qualify as wetlands under the USACOE jurisdiction (if they meet the required hydrological, vegetation, and soil criteria).

##### Coastal Sage Scrub

Coastal sage scrub habitat on Camp Pendleton is considered sensitive if it is occupied by the federally threatened coastal California gnatcatcher. Oberbauer and Vanderwier (1991) estimate that only about 130,000 acres of sage scrub remain in San Diego County. This represents a 69 percent loss of this community in the County from the pre-European era. These estimates were based on 1988 vegetation coverage estimates and additional losses have accrued since. Loss of sage scrub within California is due primarily to grazing and urbanization.

##### Riparian and Wetland Habitats

Riparian communities are situated along stream courses and adjacent to stream banks. Riparian communities contain wetland habitats which are defined by specific hydrological, vegetation, and

soil criteria. Wetland habitats are under the jurisdiction of the USACOE pursuant to Section 404 of the Clean Water Act of 1972, as amended in 1977 and 1984.

Wetlands serve many functions including flood and sediment control, habitat for rare and common species, corridors for wildlife movement, and control of water quality and erosion. Oberbauer and Vanderwier (1991) estimate that only about 13,600 acres of riparian woodland remain in San Diego County. This represents a 61 percent loss of this community in the county from the pre-European era estimate of 34,600 acres. These estimates were based on 1988 vegetation coverage estimates and additional losses have accrued since.

The loss and degradation of the riparian and wetland communities in southern California are the result of a variety of activities including the filling and draining of these habitats, clearing of riparian vegetation, water diversion and impoundment projects, grazing, channelization, increased erosion and sediment transportation, increased urban runoff, alteration of nutrient levels, lowering of water tables, contamination by agricultural fertilizers and pesticides, human recreational activities, sand and gravel mining, and invasion of exotic species (Bowler 1990; Ferren 1987).

#### USFWS Designated Critical Habitat

Critical habitat for the least Bell's vireo on the Santa Margarita River extends approximately eight kilometers (five miles) downstream from the Riverside/San Diego County line to the Camp Pendleton boundary (Santa Margarita y Las Flores Rancho grant boundary). Critical habitat for the least Bell's vireo was not designated on Camp Pendleton under the terms of a Memorandum of Understanding between the USFWS and USMC. The next closest designated critical habitat to the lower Santa Margarita River is the San Luis Rey River. Designated critical habitat along this river extends from the community of Pala approximately 35 kilometers (22 miles) downstream to Interstate 5 near Oceanside (USFWS 1998).

On July 22, 1997, critical habitat was designated for the southwestern willow flycatcher, which included the Santa Margarita River. Similar to the case with the least Bell's vireo, management considerations and/or protections for riparian/wetland species, including the southwestern willow flycatcher, are addressed in a 1997 programmatic consultation between the USFWS and USMC. This programmatic consultation was a continuation of the aforementioned MOU. Because this consultation addresses management considerations or protections, designation of critical habitat on Camp Pendleton was not necessary (USFWS 1997c).

### **3.4 PUBLIC HEALTH AND SAFETY**

Health and safety concerns identified in the FEIS/R included the discharge of non-compliant secondary effluent into the Santa Margarita River. Since the effluent does not meet minimum RWQCB effluent standards, contamination of the Base potable water supply is a potential human health hazard. To date, however, no significant adverse effects on groundwater quality have been measured as a result of these discharge practices. The presence of secondary effluent in the surface waters of the Santa Margarita River could pose a health hazard to persons using the water for recreation or drinking. The hazard is relatively low because the course of the river, between the STP discharge points and the ocean, is entirely within MCB Camp Pendleton, and is not used for recreation or drinking. There is a possibility for recreational access at the mouth of the river from persons using Del Mar Beach. However, surface flows rarely occur during the summer and warm months of the year when there are recreational users at the beach.

#### **3.4.1 STP 2 Site**

The STP site is within the fence of the existing STP facility. There are open tanks, chlorine systems and other equipment which have the chemical exposure hazards normally associated with an STP. Fencing, signs and the remote location minimize hazards to the general public.

#### **3.4.2 Lemon Grove**

The Lemon Grove pond area is unoccupied except for the construction activity associated with the construction of the ponds. No existing public health hazards have been identified. There is no barrier between the site and the railroad tracks which run through the site. Therefore, there are the normal public safety hazards associated with railroad operations, although the tracks in this section are rarely used. There are also the normal public and worker safety hazards associated with construction and grading activities.

#### **3.4.3 AWT**

The AWT facility site, adjacent to STP 13, is unoccupied. There are no evident public health or safety hazards currently associated with the site.

#### **3.4.4 Ysidora Flats**

The Ysidora Flats discharge site is presently unoccupied. In 1997, the Ysidora Flats pond area was designated for use as a wetlands mitigation area for other Camp Pendleton actions, and the berms, dikes, and elevated areas west of the ponds were removed. There are no evident public health or safety hazards associated with the site.

### 3.5 SOCIOECONOMICS

The term socioeconomics describes the basic attributes and resources associated with the human environment, with particular emphasis on population, employment, and personal income. Substantial changes in these fundamental socioeconomic indicators may in turn influence related variables such as the provision of community services and utilities, and the cost and availability of housing. Because of the relatively limited scope of this project, which does not involve construction of substantial new facilities or uses, the relevant socioeconomic indicators are employment and housing for the proposed action generally, and the agricultural operations on leased Base property for Alternative 5. The region of influence (ROI) for socioeconomics as it applies to the proposed action is San Diego County, with particular emphasis on the cities of Oceanside, Vista, and Carlsbad, as these are the urban centers that are influenced the most by activities at the Base. Communities in Riverside and Orange Counties have not been included in the ROI because only 5 percent and 2.3 percent (respectively) of all military and civilian personnel at the base reside in these counties. The base has relatively little socioeconomic influence on these counties as compared to San Diego County. The socioeconomic data presented for San Diego County and local jurisdictions was obtained from the San Diego Association of Governments (SANDAG). Employment information for this section was derived from SANDAG's most recent (1995) Employment Inventory. Housing information was also derived from SANDAG and is current through 1997.

Employment increased in all three cities in the period between 1990 and 1995 by 17.9 percent. In 1995, the construction industry represented 4.2 percent of total employment in the ROI.

Multi-family housing units generally comprise about 35 percent of total units in Oceanside, Carlsbad, and Vista, while single-family units comprise about 50 percent of the total in these areas. These proportions generally parallel the conditions in the county as a whole. Vacancy rates were 8.2 percent for all three communities in January 1997.

### 3.6 ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE/PROTECTION OF CHILDREN

Executive Order 12898 requires federal agencies to make environmental justice part of their mission by identifying and addressing, as appropriate, disproportionately high and adverse human health or environmental effects of their programs, policies, and activities on minority populations and low-income populations. The aim of the Executive Order, as pointed out in the President's February 1994 memorandum, is to prevent low income and minority communities from being subject to disproportionately adverse environmental effects.

Communities on MCB Camp Pendleton in the vicinity of the proposed action include the Stuart Mesa and Wire Mountain military housing areas. The Stuart Mesa housing is approximately  $\frac{3}{4}$  mile northwest of the Santa Margarita River, and further from the Lemon Grove Ponds and STP 13. The west side of the Stuart Mesa housing area is adjacent to the agricultural fields included in Alternative 5. The Wire Mountain housing area is approximately  $\frac{3}{4}$  mile east and southeast of STP 13 and the Lemon Grove ponds. These military housing areas are occupied by families of varying races, ranging in grade from enlisted Marine to midgrade officers. The socioeconomic characteristics of families in these areas are such that they are not predominantly minority or low-income communities.

On April 21, 1997, Executive Order 13045, Environmental Health and Safety Risks to Children, was signed by President Clinton. The policy of the Executive Order states that:

"A growing body of scientific knowledge demonstrates that children may suffer disproportionately from environmental health risks and safety risks. These risks arise because: children's neurological, immunological, digestive, and other bodily systems are still developing; children eat more food, drink more fluids, and breathe more air in proportion to their body weights than adults; children's size and weight may diminish their protection from standard safety features; and children's behavior patterns may make them more susceptible to accidents because they are less able to protect themselves. Therefore, to the extent permitted by law and appropriate, and consistent with the agency's mission, each Federal agency:

(a) shall make it a high priority to identify and assess environmental health risks and safety risks that may disproportionately affect children; and

- (b) ensure that its policies, programs, activities, and standards address disproportionate risks to children that result from environmental health risks or safety risks.

Under the definitions provided in Executive Order 13045, covered regulatory actions include those that may be “economically significant” (under Executive Order 12866) and “concern an environmental health risk or safety risk that an agency has reason to believe may disproportionately affect children.” Further, Executive Order 13045 defines “environmental health risks and safety risks” [to] “mean risks to health or to safety that are attributable to products or substances that the child is likely to come in contact with or ingest (such as the air we breathe, the food we eat, the water we drink or use for recreation, the soil we live on, and the products we use or are exposed to).”

As noted above, the Stuart Mesa and Wire Mountain military housing areas are located within the vicinity of the proposed action. Many of the families include children. Three schools, in or adjacent to the Wire Mountain housing area, are one mile or more from the areas of the proposed alternative actions.

### 3.7 GEOLOGY AND SOILS

The geology and soils of the study area are discussed in the FEIS/R. Pertinent aspects of these discussions are summarized below.

#### 3.7.1 Geology

The project site is located within the Peninsular Ranges Geomorphic Province, within the coastal plain geomorphic subunit. The project site and immediate vicinity are underlain by a variety of marine and nonmarine sediments. The approximate distribution of the geologic units is characterized as follows:

*Recent alluvium* - Younger deposits of quaternary alluvium occupy nearly the entire length of the Santa Margarita River drainage in the project area, as well as the San Luis Rey River drainage.

*Middle miocene marine sedimentary rocks* - A formation of San Onofre Breccia extends south across the Santa Margarita Alignment, just north of STP 13.

*Pleistocene marine deposits and marine terrace deposits* - These beach ridge sand deposits exist at the STP 13 site and extend to the Pacific Ocean.

*Tertiary nonmarine sedimentary rocks* - Unnamed granitic conglomerate, coarse sandstone and white and green claystone are found north and south of STP 2 and in the plant area.

*Eocene marine sedimentary rocks* - The Santiago Formation of sandstone, siltstone and conglomerates is the geologic formation in the area of the Headquarters Alignment from Pilgrim Creek to the Ysidora Flats.

The Cristianitos fault zone, located northwest of the project site, consists of a number of northwest/southeast trending strike slip faults. In the local project area, two faults are suspected or postulated to exist, but are subject to disagreement among authorities. The project site is located in a highly active seismic region. However, the project site is not known to be directly underlain by active or potentially active faults. The Cristianitos fault zone, which is located northwest of the Santa Margarita Basin, is not considered active or potentially active.



The seismic hazard most likely to be detrimental to the project site is ground shaking resulting from a large earthquake generated on either a major regional or local fault. The maximum estimated peak ground acceleration at the project site would be produced by an earthquake event on the Offshore Zone of Deformation with a magnitude of 0.40g (i.e., 30% of the force of gravity). The Offshore Zone of Deformation, located offshore approximately 14 miles to the west, is a portion of the Rose Canyon Fault Zone.

An additional potential concern involves the concept of repeatable high ground acceleration (RHGA) on the project site. The estimated RHGA that could affect the project site is 0.26g.

Seismically induced ground rupture is defined as the physical displacement of surface deposits in response to earthquake-generated seismic waves, and generally occurs along faults. The project study area is not known to be directly underlain by active or potentially active faults.

No landslides or landslide-related features are known to directly underlie the project site.

#### **3.7.2 Soils**

The Soil Survey of the San Diego area prepared by the U.S. Soil Conservation Service (SCS) classifies the soils found within the project area predominantly as a variety of loams, with some loamy sands, sands, and clays. Table 3-8 lists these soil types and related characteristics. Footnotes are provided in Table 3-8 to clarify the hydrologic group, erodibility and shrink/swell characteristics of each soil type.

The project area is not considered to be underlain by significant mineral resources and is not actively being mined. In addition, there are no abandoned mines in the study area.

The project area is underlain by a variety of geologic materials. The younger and older alluvial deposits associated with drainages (e.g., Santa Margarita River Valley) typically possess a potential for the presence of paleontological resources that varies from low to unknown. Formational materials may possess a paleontological resource sensitivity that varies from moderate to high. The specific occurrence of fossil remains is often unknown until actual construction or disturbance by natural causes (e.g., erosion) reveals them.

**Table 3-8**  
**Soil Characteristics**

Name	Symbol	Hydrologic Group <sup>1</sup>	Erodibility <sup>2</sup>	Shrink/Swell <sup>3</sup>
Coastal beaches	Cr	A	Severe	Low
Salinas clay loam, 2 to 9 percent slopes	SbC	C	Moderate	Moderate
Salinas clay, 2 to 5 percent slopes	ScB	C	Slight	High
Tujunga sand, 0 to 5 percent slopes	TuB	A	Severe	Low
Visalia sandy loam, 0 to 2 percent slopes	VaA	B	Severe	Low
Visalia sandy loam, 2 to 5 percent slopes	VaB	B	Severe	Low

Source: Soil Survey, San Diego Area, California prepared by the U.S.D.A. Soil Conservation Service, 1973.

<sup>1</sup> Hydrogeologic Soil Groups - Four hydrogeologic groups are used for estimating the runoff potential of soils. Group A has the lowest and Group D has the highest runoff potential.

Group A: Soils have high infiltration rate when thoroughly wetted; chiefly deep, well-drained to excessively drained sand, gravel, or both. Rate of water transmission is high, thus runoff potential is low.

Group B: Soils have moderate infiltration rate when thoroughly wetted; chiefly soils that are moderately deep to deep, moderately well drained to well drained, and moderately coarse textured.

Group C: Soil have slow infiltration rate when thoroughly wetted; chiefly soils that have a layer impeding downward movement of water, or moderately fine to fine textured soils that have a slow infiltration rate. Rate of water transmission is slow.

Group D: Soils have very slow infiltration rate when thoroughly wetted; chiefly clays that have a high shrink-well potential, soils that have a high permanent water table, a claypan or clay layer at or near the surface, or soils that are shallow over nearly impervious materials. Rate of water transmission is very slow.

<sup>2</sup> Soil erodibility by water - A rating of slight indicates that water erosion is a minor problem. Ratings of moderate and severe indicate that protective and corrective measures are needed.

<sup>3</sup> Shrink/Swell behavior - Shrink/swell is the change in volume that occurs in a soil with a change in moisture content. The volume change is determined mainly by the amount and kind of clay. In general, soil that has the highest content of expansive clay shrinks and swells the most with changes in moisture content.

### 3.8 AIR QUALITY

The existing air quality conditions in the study area are discussed in the FEIS/R. Pertinent aspects of these discussions are summarized below.

The climate of San Diego County is characterized by warm, dry summers and mild, wet winters. One of the main factors that controls the local climatic regime is the location of the semi-permanent high-pressure area (the Pacific High) in the eastern Pacific Ocean. In the summer, this pressure center is located well to the north, causing storm tracks to be directed north of California. When the Pacific High moves southward during the winter, this pattern changes, and low-pressure storms are brought into the region, causing widespread precipitation. In San Diego County, the months of heaviest precipitation are November through April. The annual average rainfall at Oceanside is 10.7 inches. The average annual temperature is 59.2°F, and the average July and August high and January low are 72.9°F and 42.6°F, respectively (Pryde 1984).

In September 1997, subsequent to the publication of the FEIS/R, the National Ambient Air Quality Standards (NAAQS) were revised by the USEPA. A new pollutant, fine particulate matter equal to or less than 2.5 microns in size ( $PM_{2.5}$ ), was defined, and an additional ozone ( $O_3$ ) standard was established. Policies and systems to implement these new standards are expected to be developed in the coming years. No new controls with respect to the new standards would be required by the USEPA until after the year 2002.

The Air Pollution Control District (APCD) air quality monitoring station nearest to the proposed site is within the Del Mar area of Camp Pendleton. The APCD began operation of the Camp Pendleton Del Mar monitoring station in 1997. The station monitors ozone, nitrogen dioxide ( $NO_2$ ), and meteorological conditions. The nearest APCD station with long-term (i.e., dating back at least five years) data is located in the City of Oceanside. The Oceanside monitoring station currently monitors ozone, carbon monoxide (CO),  $NO_2$ , and particulate matter equal to or less than 10 microns in size ( $PM_{10}$ ). Table 3-9 presents a summary of the exceedances of standards and the highest pollutant levels recorded at this station for the years 1993 through 1997 (the latest year for which the APCD has published summary data from the Oceanside monitoring station). Camp Pendleton is within the San Diego Air Basin (SDAB) which is currently classified as a federal and state "serious" ozone nonattainment area, a federal maintenance area for CO, and a state nonattainment area for  $PM_{10}$ .

**Table 3-9  
Oceanside Monitoring Station  
Ambient Air Quality Summary**

Pollutant	Averaging Time	California Air Quality Standards	Federal Primary Standards	Maximum Concentrations <sup>(1)</sup>					Number of Days Exceeding Federal Standard <sup>(2)</sup>					Number of Days Exceeding State Standard <sup>(3)</sup>				
				1993	1994	1995	1996	1997	1993	1994	1995	1996	1997	1993	1994	1995	1996	1997
Oxidants (Ozone)	1 hr	0.09 ppm	0.12 ppm	0.16	0.11	0.11	0.11	0.11	4	0	0	0	0	7	2	5	4	6
Carbon Monoxide	1 hr 8 hrs	20 ppm 9 ppm	35 ppm 9 ppm	5.3 7.0	5.2 3.9	4.4 3.1	4.0 2.6	6.1 2.9	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Nitrogen Dioxide	1 hr Annual	0.25 ppm N/A	N/A 0.053 ppm	0.12 0.020	0.12 0.020	0.14 0.019	0.11 0.017	0.11 0.02	N/A 0	N/A 0	N/A 0	N/A 0	N/A 0	0 N/A	0 N/A	0 N/A	0 N/A	0 N/A
PM <sub>10</sub>	24 hrs Annual/ AAM <sup>(3)</sup> Annual/AGM <sup>(3)</sup>	50 mg/m <sup>3</sup> N/A 30µg/m <sup>3</sup>	150 µg/m <sup>3</sup> 50 µg/m <sup>3</sup> N/A	68 29 26	75 29 25	83 30 27	62 26 24	50 26 25	0 0 N/A	0 0 N/A	0 0 N/A	0 0 N/A	0 0 N/A	0 N/A 0	0 N/A 0	0 N/A 0	0 N/A 0	0 N/A 0

<sup>(1)</sup> Concentration units for ozone, carbon monoxide, nitrogen dioxide, and sulfur dioxide are in parts per million (ppm). Concentration units for PM<sub>10</sub> are in micrograms per cubic meter (µg/m<sup>3</sup>).

<sup>(2)</sup> For annual standards, a value of 1 indicates that the standard has been exceeded.

<sup>(3)</sup> AAM = annual arithmetic mean; AGM = annual geometric mean.

N/A = not available

Source: San Diego APCD, 1998.

The Clean Air Act Amendments of 1990 (Pub. L. 101-549, 104 Stat. 2399) required the USEPA to promulgate rules to ensure that federal actions conform to the appropriate state implementation plan (SIP). These rules, known together as the General Conformity Rule (40 C.F.R. §§ 51.850-.860 and 40 C.F.R. §§ 93.150-.160), require any federal agency responsible for an action to determine if its action conforms with pertinent guidelines and regulations. Certain actions are exempt from conformity determination, including those actions associated with transfers of land or facilities where the federal agency does not retain continuing authority to control emissions associated with the properties. Federal actions may also be exempt if the projected emission rates would be less than specified emission rate thresholds, known as *de minimis* limits, and less than 10 percent of the area's annual emission budget.

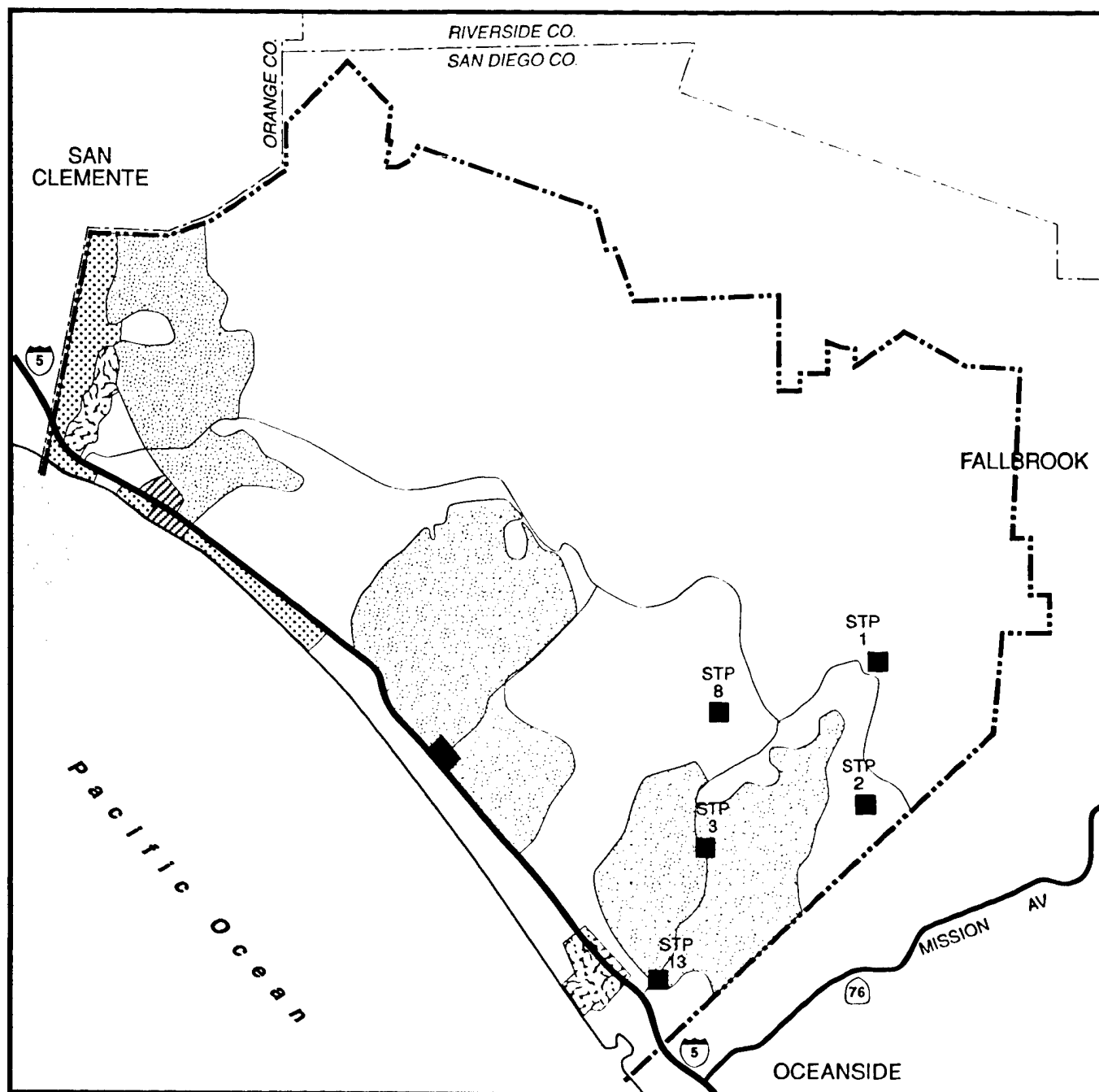
### 3.9 LAND USE

The proposed action lies entirely within the jurisdiction of MCB Camp Pendleton. Existing land use within MCB Camp Pendleton's 125,000 acres includes large military training areas for weapons impact and for maneuvers, and isolated development areas, which are connected by paved roads and surrounded by open space. Various operation, supply, and infrastructure facilities line the major road system throughout the Base, particularly Vandegrift Boulevard, Basilone Road, and Stuart Mesa Road. Ancillary uses (hospital, schools, golf course, fields, etc.) are located throughout the Base. Some sections of the Base are leased to private entities for agricultural, recreational, and industrial purposes (Figure 3-5). One group of leases relevant to this action includes the agricultural parcels, which are part of Alternative 5.






STP 2 is surrounded by undeveloped land of varying topography. Pilgrim Creek is located to the west. The nearest developed areas are the rodeo grounds located approximately 1,200 feet to the north on the western side of Vandegrift Boulevard, and the San Luis Rey housing community further northeast on the east side of Vandegrift Boulevard.

The Lemon Grove area is a disturbed habitat that was previously a citrus orchard. It is no longer used for agriculture or other urban activity and has been gradually returning to a more natural habitat. Trees and interior roads are located along a portion of the perimeter. The portion of the Lemon Grove site identified in the FEIS/R for percolation ponds has been cleared and grubbed in preparation for construction of the ponds. Surrounding land uses include STP 13 and the MCB Camp Pendleton rail spur to the east, the Santa Margarita River to the north and northwest, and I-5 and the Amtrak/Coaster/Santa Fe rail corridor to the west and southwest. The Base Commissary is located to the southeast. To the west, beyond I-5, is the Camp Del Mar area.

The AWT plant site (included in Alternatives 3, 4 and 5) is located adjacent to, and on the east side of STP 13, near the intersection of Vandegrift Boulevard and Stuart Mesa Road. Land uses surrounding the AWT plant site consist of the Base recycling center and undeveloped lands proposed for expansion of the Lemon Grove ponds to the south, with the Commissary complex further south; open space to the north; and STP 13, the abandoned Camp Pendleton rail line, the Lemon Grove area, and the Santa Margarita River to the west. Three family housing areas lie to the east, beyond Vandegrift Boulevard and open space.



# **LEGEND**

-  Grazing
-  State of California Department of Parks and Recreation
-  Southern California Edison San Onofre Nuclear Generating Station
-  Boy Scouts of America
-  Agricultural

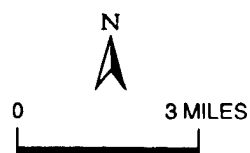


Figure 3-6

## Outleased Areas at MCB Camp Pendleton

The Ysidora Flats area is located on the west side of Vandegrift Boulevard, approximately 2.5 miles northeast of STP 13. Prior to 1993, percolation ponds were located in the Ysidora Flats area between Vandegrift Boulevard and the Santa Margarita River for the purpose of disposal of effluent from STP 13. The ponds were found to have poor percolation capacity, and were not used for the STP 13 discharge. In January 1993, the ponds were severely damaged by floods; however, a pipeline into the ponds remains. In 1997, the Ysidora Flats pond area was designated for use as a wetlands mitigation area for other Camp Pendleton actions, and the berms, dikes and elevated areas west of the ponds were removed. The corridor through the Ysidora Flats area at the location of the existing pipeline is an access road created for the wetlands mitigation activity. Surrounding land uses include undeveloped land.

The leased agricultural lands (which are included in Alternative 5) are located north of the Santa Margarita River, and east and west of the I-5 and railroad corridor. The present land use is crop production, principally cucumbers, tomatoes, and potatoes. The beach and Pacific Ocean are to the west of the agricultural lands; the Stuart Mesa housing area is to the east. At the northwest corner are buildings used by the Marine Corps Tactical Systems Support Activity (MCTSSA); the remainder of the area to the north is undeveloped. The Santa Margarita River flood plain is to the south.

### **3.9.1 MCB Camp Pendleton Master Plan**

Land development within the Base is guided by the MCB Camp Pendleton Master Plan (September 1992). The Master Plan's goal is to "develop guidelines for optimum utilization of land and airspace to support the Camp Pendleton mission." It recommends improvements and new development that would replace or modify existing inadequate facilities, relocate various military activities within the Base, and reduce existing environmental problems. The Master Plan includes individual area plans and capital improvement plans for each of the developed areas within the Base. None of the SEIS proposed action sites are within an area designated for a specific use in this Master Plan.

### **3.9.2 MCB Camp Pendleton Range Compatible Use Zone (RCUZ) Program**

The RCUZ Program was established to provide guidelines for siting of future on-base facilities. The general purpose of the RCUZ Program is to create, to the greatest extent possible, compatible land uses within MCB Camp Pendleton for the various types of facilities as they relate to noise and safety hazards generated by the many military training activities conducted on the base. The RCUZ



program identifies Noise and Range Safety Zones, which reflect the areas within MCB Camp Pendleton where the majority of these training activities occur. The primary objective of RCUZ is to preserve MCB Camp Pendleton's existing amphibious, ground, aviation range and training areas which are critical to MCB Camp Pendleton's ability to meet its national security mission of providing a realistic environment to train the nation's combat marines.

#### **3.9.3 Coastal Zone Management Act**

The proposed action analyzed in this SEIS is located within the area requiring compliance with Federal Consistency implementary regulations (15 C.F.R. § 930, et seq.) of the Coastal Zone Management Act (16 U.S.C. § 1451 et seq.). The Act is designed to protect resources in the coastal zone environment.

### 3.10 NOISE

Noise is defined as unwanted or objectionable sound. The effects of noise can include general annoyance, interference with speech communication, sleep disturbance, and, in the extreme, hearing impairment.

The standard unit employed for noise measurements is the decibel (dB). Decibels are measured on a logarithmic scale that quantifies sound intensity in a manner similar to the Richter scale used for earthquake magnitudes. Doubling the noise level results in an increase of 3 dB; halving the noise level results in a decrease of 3 dB. The human ear is not equally sensitive to all frequencies within the sound spectrum. Therefore, the "A-weighted" noise scale, which weights the frequencies to which humans are sensitive, is used for measurements. Noise levels using A-weighted measurements are sometimes written dB(A) or dBA. In this SEIS, all noise levels discussed are A-weighted and dB is understood to identify the A-weighted decibel.

Average noise levels over a period of minutes or hours are usually expressed as dB  $L_{eq}$ , the equivalent noise level. The period of time average may be specified;  $L_{eq(3)}$  would be a three-hour average. Noise levels that are often used to evaluate noise-land use compatibility are averaged over a period of 24 hours, and are normally weighted to account for greater human sensitivity to noise in the evening and nighttime hours. These 24-hour noise averages are the Community Noise Equivalent Level (CNEL) and the Day-Night level (DNL or  $L_{dn}$ ). For purposes of this SEIS, CNEL, and  $L_{dn}$  may be considered equivalent.

#### 3.10.1 Sensitive Receptors

Noise sensitive receptors are generally considered to be human activities or land uses that may be subject to the stress of significant interference from noise. They often include residential dwellings, mobile homes, hotels, motels, hospitals, nursing homes, education facilities, and libraries. Noise sensitive receptors may also include sensitive wildlife.

STP 2 is located south of Vandegrift Boulevard, near the San Luis Rey gate. The plant is surrounded by open space of varying topography. The closest human noise receptors are housing units located 1,200 feet to the northeast, on the north side of Vandegrift Boulevard. Sensitive bird species (least Bell's vireo) may nest near Pilgrim Creek, east of STP 2.

### 3.10 Noise

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There are no human noise sensitive receptors within 1,000 feet of the Lemon Grove or Ysidora Flats sites. There are songbirds near the north end of the Lemon Grove site; the specific species and locations are described in Section 3.3 of this SEIS. Sensitive birds (least Bell's vireo, southwestern willow flycatcher) have also been identified adjacent to the Ysidora Flats mitigation area.

#### **3.10.2 Noise Sources**

Noise sources in the SEIS study area include vehicle traffic on I-5, Stuart Mesa Road, Vandegrift Boulevard and other Base roadways; rail traffic; agricultural machinery in the fields; and, construction equipment at Lemon Grove. All of the SEIS study area is subject to frequent noise impact from routine military helicopter flights and additional periodic noise intrusion from weapons and aircraft during training operations.

### 3.11 TRANSPORTATION AND VEHICULAR CIRCULATION

The principal north-south route in the vicinity of MCB Camp Pendleton and the City of Oceanside is Interstate 5 (I-5). In Oceanside, south of MCB Camp Pendleton, State Route (SR-) 76 and SR-78 are east-west roadways connecting I-5 to I-15, the inland north-south freeway. I-5 provides direct access to the Base at the Oceanside (Main), Las Pulgas, Christianitos and San Onofre gates. From SR-76, the Base can be accessed through the San Luis Rey gate. The Del Mar gate provides access from the City of Oceanside to the Del Mar area of the Base, west of I-5.

The following major Base roadways would be affected by one or more alternatives of the proposed action:

*Vandegrift Boulevard* is a four-lane highway that makes a loop from the Oceanside gate to the San Luis Rey gate, and provides access to the major population centers of the Base.

*Stuart Mesa Road* is a two-lane roadway extending northwest from Vandegrift Boulevard and across the Santa Margarita River. The road continues northwest, widening to 3 or 4 lanes in some places, past the Stuart Mesa housing area, and ending at Las Pulgas Road.

## **3.12 VISUAL RESOURCES**

### **3.12.1 Lemon Grove Site**

The Lemon Grove ponds cover approximately 22 acres and are located southwest of STP 13, on the west side of the railroad tracks. The landscape character of the Lemon Grove site is primarily open space with low-lying grasses, shrubs, and groves of mature trees. I-5 is located adjacent to the site's western boundary, while an east-west unpaved road, and the Camp Pendleton railroad tracks bound the sites southern edge.

### **3.12.2 AWT**

The AWT plant site for Alternatives 3, 4, and 5 is located on the east side of STP 13, with the Twin Lakes lagoons to the north and northwest. The treatment plant, clarifier tanks, and the effluent lagoons contribute to the site's light industrial character. The undeveloped area immediately surrounding the plant is predominantly open, level terrain, with minimal vegetation consisting of low-lying grasses and shrubs. The open area to the immediate south is the proposed site for the equalization basin. Viewers within the vicinity of the AWT site are motorists traveling along Stuart Mesa Road, Vandegrift Boulevard, and I-5. Views of the treatment plant from the residential development approximately 4,500 feet to the east, along Wire Mountain, are limited by distance and intervening vegetation.

### **3.12.3 Ysidora Flats**

In 1997, the Ysidora Flats pond area was designated for use as a wetlands mitigation area for other Camp Pendleton actions, and the berms, dikes and elevated areas west of the ponds were removed. The corridor through Ysidora Flats area at the location of the existing pipeline is an access road created for the wetlands mitigation activity. Views of the pond area are limited by mature landscaping and are only visible through access road openings to motorists along Vandegrift Boulevard. The site is fairly flat and located within the 100-year floodplain of the Santa Margarita River.

#### 3.12.4 STP 2 Site

STP 2 is located approximately two miles south of the Headquarters Area and is immediately adjacent to Pilgrim Creek. The landscape character of the plant consists of a level site located between a small natural hill to the east and Pilgrim Creek, approximately 400 feet to the west. The site supports the sewage treatment plant, a pump station, and an equalization pond. A paved road is also located onsite.

The surrounding area consists primarily of open space associated with the adjacent creek and undulating hills to the west. Immediately east of the plant is an undeveloped area covered with dry grasses and shrubs. The visual character of the surrounding area to the northeast gradually changes from open, undeveloped land to urban uses consisting of residences, recreational facilities, and the rodeo grounds. The rodeo grounds, located approximately 1,200 feet to the north, are separated from the treatment plant by a large, graded dirt area. Natural features that noticeably contribute to the visual character of the surrounding landscape are dense vegetation and trees that grow along Pilgrim Creek and undulating hills to the west.

The westerly viewshed for STP 2 extends towards the rolling hills approximately 600 feet to the west, while the rodeo grounds provide expansive views to the plant at a distance of approximately 1,200 feet to the north. The eastern viewshed is not as clear due to an intervening hillside which slopes down toward the treatment plant, blocking views of the plant from the surrounding land uses and motorists on Vandegrift Boulevard.

Viewers in proximity to STP 2 consist of rodeo grounds users and roadway travelers. Existing residential areas, located approximately 1,200 feet north of the plant, along the elevated hills, have very limited views of the plant. This is due to the distance involved and the location of the treatment plant which is at the foot of a natural hill. The hillside also serves as a visual buffer, limiting views to the treatment plant from residences and motorists along Vandegrift Boulevard to the east. Rodeo grounds users have distant, partially screened views of the site.

### **3.13 UTILITIES**

The potable water supply for MCB Camp Pendleton is derived completely from groundwater resources within the Base boundaries. There are “north” and “south” water systems on the Base. The south water system (which covers the project area) consists of wells, water mains, booster pumps, and storage reservoirs with a total capacity of 21.5 million gallons. A discussion of groundwater and surface water resources is provided in Section 3.1 of this SEIS.

The Base operates two sanitary landfills: the Las Pulgas and San Onofre landfills. Hazardous wastes listed under Title 22 of the California Administrative Code that are generated on-Base are containerized, labeled by the generating unit under direction of Assistant Chief of Staff, Environmental Security, and transported by the unit to the Base Hazardous Waste Storage Facility in the 24 Area (between MCAS Camp Pendleton and the Headquarters area). These wastes are then disposed off-Base in accordance with current state and federal regulations by an Assistant Chief of Staff, Environmental Security-managed contract.

Electrical power is purchased from the regional utility company, San Diego Gas and Electric Company (SDG&E), which has two major transmission lines traversing the Base. The Base electrical system consists of aboveground pole mounted lines, with the exception of the underground lines serving some of the family housing areas.

MCB Camp Pendleton purchases liquefied natural gas from SDG&E; gas mains feed some Base facilities directly and also supply a base storage system, which feeds an MCB Camp Pendleton gas distribution system. MCB Camp Pendleton also purchases liquefied petroleum gas by tanker truck from sources in the San Diego area.

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## **CHAPTER 4.0**

### **ENVIRONMENTAL CONSEQUENCES**

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#### **4.0 ENVIRONMENTAL CONSEQUENCES**

This section provides an analysis of environmental impacts and associated mitigation measures for each issue addressed in this SEIS. There are three levels of impact: significant impacts, less than significant impacts, and no impacts. The term impact, as used within this document, refers to impacts that are adverse in nature.

Significant impacts are defined in terms of context and intensity. Context is related to the uniqueness of a resource. Intensity refers to the severity of the impact (i.e., the magnitude of the impact on the environment).

Mitigation measures for both significant and less than significant impacts are provided to reduce significant and adverse impacts associated with the proposed action and alternatives to an acceptable level. These measures can include:

- avoiding the impact altogether by not taking a certain action or parts of an action;
- minimizing impacts by limiting the degree or magnitude of the action and its implementation;
- rectifying the impact by repairing, rehabilitating, or restoring the affected environment;
- reducing or eliminating the impact over time by restoration and maintenance operations during the life of the action; and
- compensating for the impact by replacing or providing substitute resources or environments.

## **4.1 HYDROLOGY AND WATER QUALITY**

### **4.1.1 Alternative 1: Discharge of Secondary Effluent at Lemon Grove in Percolation Ponds with Vertical Drains**

Secondary effluent from STPs 1, 2, 3, 8, and 13 would be conveyed to the water table through an array of vertical drains located within the Lemon Grove ponds. These drains would penetrate through the upper six to eight feet of soil beneath the ponds in order to convey the majority of effluent to an elevation below the upper intermittent layers of relatively impermeable soils.

#### **Environmental Impacts**

##### Surface Water Quality

Disposal of the total combined effluent through enhanced percolation would eliminate the existing surface water discharge of effluent which exceeds permitted limits for certain constituents. Therefore, implementation of Alternative 1 would be beneficial to surface water quality.

There would be a potential for surfacing of the percolated effluent (daylighting) in the estuary or the adjacent salt marsh. Surfacing of the percolated effluent in the estuary would be a surface discharge of secondary effluent, and the concentration of constituents in the effluent, especially nitrogen, would likely be in excess of Basin Plan limits. As described in Section 4.2 of this SEIS, large influxes of fresh water could decrease the salinity of the salt marsh, potentially altering the species composition. In order to avoid this potentially significant impact, a barrier trench would be incorporated into the design of the Lemon Grove pond area, as described in Section 2.2.1, and shown in Figure 2-6.

##### Groundwater Quality

##### *Basin Plan*

As noted in Section 3.1, the Basin Plan establishes numerical groundwater quality objectives for the portion of the Ysidora HA which is east of the easterly boundary of I-5. The Lemon Grove ponds and vertical drains would be located immediately east of this boundary, and down gradient flow of effluent would primarily recharge the groundwater west of the boundary.

Table 4-1 compares the projected quality of percolation discharge with postulated average groundwater quality in the Lemon Grove vicinity, and with Basin Plan groundwater quality objectives. As shown in Table 4-1, the proposed discharge is projected to be of significantly better quality than existing groundwater in the vicinity of Lemon Grove. With the exception of TDS, the reclaimed water discharge also would be superior in quality to the Basin Plan groundwater quality objectives that apply east of I-5. The groundwater in the vicinity of Lemon Grove is of such poor quality that future use of the groundwater is highly improbable (even with groundwater demineralization). Implementation of Alternative 1 would improve the overall groundwater quality, although the concentration of one constituent, TDS, would exceed the Basin Plan objective at the discharge point, the impact to water quality would not be significant.

**Table 4-1. Comparison of Recharge Water with  
Basin Plan Mineral Objectives and Existing Groundwater Quality**

Constituent	Projected Quality of Discharge <sup>1</sup> (mg/l)	Postulated Existing Groundwater Quality in Vicinity of Lemon Grove <sup>2</sup>	Basin Plan Objectives Immediately Downstream from Lemon Grove Site <sup>3</sup>	Basin Plan Objectives Upstream from Percolation Pond Site <sup>3</sup> (mg/l)
TDS	960	36,100	No Objective	750
Chloride	198	20,300	No Objective	300
Sulfate	225	2,380	No Objective	300
Iron	0.22	N/A	No Objective	0.3
Manganese	< 0.1	N/A	No Objective	0.05
Boron	0.3	N/A	No Objective	0.75
Fluoride	0.6	N/A	No Objective	1.0

1 From sample analyses collected from flow-weighted composite sample from MCB Camp Pendleton STPs 1, 2, 3, 8, and 13. Samples collected on 9/30/96.

2 Groundwater quality from Well No. 11S/5W-5J1, as presented in Table 3-4

3 From Table 3-1

### *Potable Water Sources*

No actual groundwater use for potable supply now occurs, or is anticipated to occur, within 3.7 miles of the Lemon Grove discharge site. Further, the nearest wells are located upgradient and upstream from the pond site. Therefore, there would not be any significant impacts to potable water sources.

The discharge of up to 4.4 MGD of effluent to the groundwater in the Lemon Grove area would provide a barrier to reduce the saltwater intrusion into the upstream groundwater. This impact would be beneficial, providing enhanced protection of potable water sources.

##### Estuary

Replacement of the current surface water discharge from STP 13 with groundwater discharges under this alternative would benefit the downstream estuary by: 1) decreasing freshwater influences on the estuary during summer and autumn months; and 2) limiting the quantity of nutrients discharged to the estuary. This would result in more natural conditions in the estuary, under which freshwater flows reach the estuary only during periods of significant natural runoff. There would not be any significant impact.

##### Flood Plains

No improvements would be constructed within the flood plain. Implementation of this Alternative would not result in significant impacts to the flood plain. Consequently, implementation of this alternative would be consistent with Executive Order 11988, "Flood Plain Management" (42 Fed. Reg. 26951 (1997)).

##### **Mitigation Measures**

No significant impacts to hydrology or water quality were identified for Alternative 1; no mitigation measures would be required.

##### **4.1.2 Alternative 2: Discharge of Secondary Effluent at Lemon Grove in Percolation Ponds with Vertical Drains plus Advanced Wastewater Treatment and Reclamation of a Portion of the Effluent (Preferred Alternative)**

This alternative would be implemented in two phases. Phase 1 would provide the identical system of ponds at the Lemon Grove site with vertical drains for discharge of secondary effluent from STPs 1, 2, 3, 8, and 13 as described for Alternative 1. Phase 2 would add a system for advanced treatment of the secondary effluent from STPs 1 and 2. This advanced wastewater filtration would result in improved quality of reclaimed effluent used to irrigate the Marine Memorial Golf Course, with the

excess effluent discharged to the Santa Margarita River in the Ysidora Flats area, providing an opportunity for additional reclamation and recharge of groundwater in that area.

#### Surface Water Quality

Impacts for Phase 1 of Alternative 2 would be identical to those of Alternative 1 and, with the incorporation of a trench as a barrier to lateral subsurface flow, would not be significant.

With implementation of Phase 2 of Alternative 2, there would be a potential for adverse impacts to surface water quality with the discharge of effluent at the Ysidora Flats mitigation area. Although the advanced wastewater treatment would meet the criteria for unrestricted irrigation of landscape, nutrient concentrations would be expected to exceed the Basin Plan objectives for surface water. There is also the potential for observable nitrogen toxicity from ammonia or other toxicants. These impacts would be less than significant since the discharge activity would be designed, planned and monitored in accordance with a program which would be approved and permitted by the cognizant resource agencies. This program would require the diversion of STP 1 and 2 effluent discharge to the Lemon Grove ponds if necessary to avoid significant impact.

#### Groundwater Quality

##### *Basin Plan*

Impacts for Phase 1 of Alternative 2 would be identical to those of Alternative 1, and would not be significant. For Phase 2, the potential for adverse impacts to groundwater quality with the discharge of effluent at the Ysidora Flats mitigation area would be similar to those described for surface water quality, in that concentrations of nutrients would exceed the Basin Plan criteria for groundwater recharge. Mitigation of impacts to a level less than significant would be through implementation of an approved monitoring program and diversion option as described above for surface water.

##### *Potable Water Sources*

No use of groundwater for potable supply now occurs, or is anticipated to occur, within approximately 3.7 miles of the Lemon Grove discharge site or 1.5 miles of the Ysidora Flats discharge site. Further, the nearest wells are located upgradient and upstream from the discharge sites. Therefore, there would not be any adverse water quality impacts to potable water sources.

The discharge of effluent to the groundwater in the Lemon Grove area would provide a barrier to reduce the saltwater intrusion into the upstream groundwater. This impact would be beneficial, providing enhanced protection of potable water sources.

#### Estuary

Impacts for Phase 1 of Alternative 2 would be identical to those of Alternative 1, and would not be significant. For phase 2, the advanced wastewater effluent discharged at Ysidora Flats during the dry seasons would be absorbed locally and would not reach the estuary. During a wet season, effluent discharges may reach the estuary by inclusion into surface waters flowing in the Santa Margarita River. The discharge would be diluted by the river water, and the impact on the estuary would be less than significant.

#### Flood Plains

All improvements at Ysidora Flats would be built within the 100-year flood plain, and would be subject to damage or loss during a severe flood. The damage could result in the inability to discharge STP 1 and STP 2 effluent to Ysidora Flats. While this would be an undesirable occurrence, it would not be a significant impact to the environment, as the STP 1 and 2 effluent could be diverted to the Lemon Grove ponds, and discharged as anticipated for Alternative 1.

The construction of improvements to discharge advanced wastewater effluent from STPs 1 and 2 within the flood plain is the only practicable alternative to enable such discharge. Accordingly, implementation of this alternative would be consistent with Executive Order 11988, "Flood Plain Management" (42 Fed. Reg. 26951 (1997)), as it would be designed to minimize potential harm to or within the flood plain.

#### **Mitigation Measures**

Potential significant impacts to surface and groundwater from effluent discharges in the Ysidora Flats area were identified. In order to avoid a potential significant impact the following mitigation measure would be included in Alternative 2:

The discharge of advanced wastewater treated effluent to the Santa Margarita River at Ysidora Flats shall be designed and implemented as allowed in an appropriate NPDES permit. A monitoring plan for a discharge at Ysidora Flats could contain the following (Montgomery Watson 1998):

1. A monitoring of surface flow to identify how far downstream the effluent travels before percolating into the riverbed.
2. Quantification of environmental and biological conditions:
  - A. Parameters
    - Water column nutrients: nitrate ( $\text{NO}_3$ ), ammonia ( $\text{NH}_4$ ), total Kjeldahl nitrogen (TKN), total phosphorous (TP), phosphate ( $\text{PO}_4$ ).
    - Water temperature, dissolved oxygen (DO), pH, salinity, turbidity, chlorophyll concentration.
    - Algal community (species composition, and for each species percent cover, biomass, tissue nutrients).
    - Riparian vegetation (species composition, percent cover, biomass, tissue nutrients).
    - Fish and invertebrates (species composition, species diversity, biomass).
  - B. Stations:
    - One upstream of the discharge. This flow is anticipated to be zero in dry weather.
    - At least two downstream stations, with indication of how far downstream surface flow appears.
  - C. Sampling frequency
    - Monthly for basic water quality and flow.
    - Quarterly for biological sampling and water column nutrients.
  - D. Significance criteria
    - dissolved oxygen drops below acceptable limits: 5.0 mg/L or some increment below natural upstream DO levels.
  - E. Mitigation measures if significance criteria are exceeded
    - For DO, construct cascade or other aeration method for effluent.



**4.1.3 Alternative 3: Tertiary Treated Effluent Blended with Secondary Effluent for Groundwater Recharge at Ysidora Flats**

Tertiary treated STP 13 effluent, including nutrient removal, would be pumped to the Ysidora Flats area and combined with secondary effluent from STPs 1, 2, 3, and 8. The blended effluent would be discharged at the Ysidora Flats area.

**Environmental Impacts**

**Surface Water Quality**

Potential surface water quality impacts at Ysidora Flats would be similar to those described for Alternative 2, in that certain constituents could have concentrations exceeding the Basin Plan objectives for surface water. The concentration of effluent discharged to the river would vary, not only with the treatment efficiency, but with the relative quantities of tertiary and secondary treated effluents. The tertiary treated effluent from STP 13, would constitute the greater part of the discharge, and may meet the Basin Plan criteria; the addition of the secondary effluent from STPs 1, 2, 3 and 8 would result in a mixture which would exceed the criteria for nitrogen, phosphorous and TDS. Alternative 3 differs from Alternative 2 in that there would not be any enhancement of the percolation capabilities of the Lemon Grove ponds. Therefore, if unacceptable surface water quality at Ysidora Flats required the diversion of the STP 1, 2, 3, and 8 effluent to Lemon Grove, the storage/percolation capacity would be limited, although storage would only be required for the secondary effluent. The potential impact would be less than significant if the discharge would be designed, planned, monitored, and permitted in accordance with a program which would be approved by the cognizant resource agencies.

**Groundwater Quality**

***Basin Plan***

The potential for adverse impacts to groundwater quality with the discharge of effluent at the Ysidora Flats mitigation area would be similar to those described for surface water quality, in that concentrations of certain constituents would exceed the Basin Plan criteria for groundwater recharge. Mitigation of impacts to a level less than significant would be through implementation of an approved and permitted monitoring program.

### *Potable Water Sources*

No use of groundwater for potable supply now occurs, or is anticipated to occur, within approximately 1.5 miles of the Ysidora Flats discharge site. Further, the nearest wells are located upgradient and upstream from the discharge site. Therefore, there would not be any adverse water quality impacts to potable water sources.

### Estuary

The tertiary effluent discharged at Ysidora Flats during the dry seasons would be absorbed locally and would not reach the estuary. During a wet season, effluent discharges may reach the estuary by inclusion into surface waters flowing in the Santa Margarita River. The discharge would be diluted by the river water, and the impact on the estuary would be less than significant.

### Flood Plains

All improvements at Ysidora Flats would be built within the 100-year flood plain, and would be subject to damage or loss during a severe flood. The damage could result in the inability to discharge effluent to Ysidora Flats. A short-term loss of the dechlorination or discharge system may not result in a significant impact, as the discharge through Lemon Grove or directly to the river would likely be highly diluted during flood conditions, and concentrations of effluent constituents would be below permit limits. A long-term outage would likely result in the filling of effluent storage facilities and subsequent live stream discharge of effluent which exceeded permit limits. This discharge would be a significant water quality impact. The potential significant impact could be avoided by the demonstration of the ability to replace a dechlorination system or discharge facilities within a reasonable period of time following flood damage.

The construction of improvements to discharge tertiary effluent from the five STPs within the flood plain is the only practicable alternative to enable such discharge. Accordingly, implementation of this alternative would be consistent with Executive Order 11988, "Flood Plain Management" (42 Fed. Reg. 26951 (1997)), as it would be designed to minimize potential harm to or within the flood plain.

### **Mitigation Measures**

Potential significant impacts to surface and groundwater from effluent discharges in the Ysidora Flats area were identified. In order to avoid a significant impact the following mitigation measure would be included in Alternative 3:

1. The discharge of tertiary treated effluent to the Santa Margarita River at Ysidora Flats shall be designed and implemented as prescribed in an NPDES permit. An example of a monitoring plan is included in Section 4.1.2 above.
2. The Marine Corps shall provide spare parts for the Ysidora Flats discharge system and procedures which would enable the replacement of a damaged system within 30 days of the loss of the system.

#### **4.1.4 Alternative 4: Advanced Wastewater Treatment and Discharge in Cased Wells at Lemon Grove**

Effluent from STPs 1, 2, 3, 8, and 13 would be treated for removal of particulates and chlorinated, then conveyed to the water table by gravity injection through cased wells located adjacent to the Lemon Grove ponds.

### **Environmental Impacts**

#### **Surface Water Quality**

With implementation of Alternative 4, similar to Alternative 1, disposal of the total effluent through enhanced percolation would eliminate the existing surface water discharge of effluent which exceeds permitted limits for certain constituents. Therefore, implementation of Alternative 4 and elimination of the current surface discharge would be beneficial to surface water quality. For Alternative 4, unlike Alternative 1, there would not be any significant potential for “surfacing” of subsurface flow, and no potential significant impact.

## Groundwater Quality

### *Basin Plan*

The quality of effluent discharged with implementation of Alternative 4 would be better than the secondary effluent of Alternative 1 and, as described in Section 4.1.1, the proposed discharge for Alternative 1 is projected to be of significantly better quality than existing groundwater in the vicinity of Lemon Grove. With the exception of TDS, the reclaimed water discharge also would be superior in quality to the Basin Plan groundwater quality objectives that apply east of I-5. The groundwater in the vicinity of Lemon Grove is of such poor quality that future use of the groundwater is highly improbable (even with groundwater demineralization). Implementation of Alternative 4 would improve the groundwater quality, although the concentration of one constituent, TDS, would exceed the Basin Plan objective at the discharge point. The impact would not be significant.

### *Potable Water Sources*

No actual groundwater use for potable supply now occurs, or is anticipated to occur, within 3.7 miles of the Lemon Grove discharge site. Further, the nearest wells are located upgradient and upstream from the discharge sites. Therefore, there would not be any adverse water quality impacts to potable water sources.

The discharge of up to 4.4 MGD of effluent to the groundwater in the Lemon Grove area would provide a barrier to reduce the saltwater intrusion into the upstream groundwater. This impact would be beneficial, providing enhanced protection of potable water sources.

## Estuary

The effects of Alternative 4 would be similar to those of Alternative 1. There would not be any significant impact.

## Flood Plains

The effects of Alternative 4 would be similar to those of Alternative 1. There would not be any significant impact.

### **Mitigation Measures**

No significant impacts to hydrology or water quality were identified for this alternative; no mitigation measures would be required.

#### **4.1.5 Alternative 5: Advanced Wastewater Treatment with Irrigation of Agricultural Fields and Discharge in Cased Wells**

### **Environmental Impacts**

#### **Surface Water Quality**

The effects of Alternative 5 would be the same as those of Alternative 4. There would not be any significant impact.

#### **Groundwater Quality**

The present land use is crop production, principally cucumbers, tomatoes, and potatoes. The groundwater used for irrigation would be treated to comply with the Title 22 standards for irrigation of food crops of this type without creation of a risk to human health. Treatment would include disinfection to MPN 2.2 coliforms per 100 ml. Salt tolerance for these crops is shown in Table 4-1a. Projected effluent TDS is approximately 908 mg/L (Montgomery Watson 1998). It may be seen from the table that no yield reduction would occur for cucumbers and tomatoes, and a yield reduction of less than ten percent may occur for potatoes. There may be no yield reduction if the existing irrigation water has TDS in 900 mg/L range, as indicated in samples of well 35K1, Table 3-5. To prevent buildup of salts in the soil, it may be necessary to over-irrigate at times to leach the salts past the soil root zone. This is common practice in the west, where both soils and waters tend to be saline or alkaline or both (Montgomery Watson 1998 and Almgren & Koptionak 1989). The impact to groundwater quality for irrigation would not be significant.

Effluent not used for irrigation would be discharged through cased wells. The impact of discharge through cased wells would be the same as that for Alternative 4.

**Table 4-1a  
Crop Salt Tolerance**

<b>Crop</b>	<b>TDS Limitation (mg/L)</b>	
	<b>No yield reduction</b>	<b>10 percent yield reduction</b>
Cucumbers	1100	1408
Tomatoes	1100	1472
Potatoes	704	1100

Montgomery Watson 1998 and Almgren & Koptionak 1989

### Estuary

The effects of Alternative 5 would be the same as those of Alternative 4. There would not be any significant impact.

### Flood Plains

The effects of Alternative 5 would be the same as those of Alternative 4. There would not be any significant impact.

### **Mitigation Measures**

No significant impacts to hydrology or water quality were identified for Alternative 5; no mitigation measures would be required.

#### **4.1.6 No Action Alternative**

### **Environmental Impacts**

With the No Action Alternative, there would not be any construction of vertical drains, AWT plants, cased wells, or live stream discharge systems as described in the proposed action alternatives. Effluent would be conveyed to the percolation ponds at Lemon Grove in the system now being constructed. Disposal would be by percolation and evaporation. The rate of effluent generation would exceed the percolation/evaporation rate, and the Lemon Grove ponds would fill. Effluent could be stored at or near the individual plants in the ponds now used for storage and percolation and

planned for abandonment. When all storage ponds would be full, excess effluent would be discharged to the Santa Margarita River adjacent to the Lemon Grove Ponds.

##### Surface Water Quality

The No Action Alternative would eliminate surface water discharge of effluent at the discharge points for STPs 1, 2, 3, and 8. This action would be beneficial to surface water quality upstream of Lemon Grove. The potential discharge of secondary effluent at Lemon Grove, which would occur when effluent production would exceed the available storage and discharge capacity, would be in violation of the limits of the current NPDES permit (Order No. 94-51), and would be a significant adverse impact.

##### Groundwater Quality

Under the No Action Alternative, the percolation volumes would be less than for Alternatives 1, 2 and 4; however, effects on groundwater quality would be similar to those described in Alternative 1.

##### Estuary

There would be a potential for adverse impacts to the estuary with the No Action Alternative, as all effluent in excess of percolation, evaporation and storage capabilities would be discharged to surface waters closer to the estuary than the current discharge points. Therefore, there would potentially be more effluent reaching the estuary, adversely affecting the estuarine environment.

##### Flood Plains

No improvements would be constructed within the flood plain. Therefore, there would not be any significant impacts.

#### **Mitigation Measures**

As a result of the conveyance of effluent from STPs 1, 2, 3, and 8 to Lemon Grove, the No Action Alternative would result in better upstream surface water and ground water quality due to the discharge of secondary effluent downstream of the previous discharge points. However, mitigation measures would be necessary to reduce the remaining significant impacts. The No Action Alternative would result in continued violation of the Basin Plan.

## **4.2 CULTURAL RESOURCES**

### **4.2.1 Alternative 1: Discharge of Secondary Effluent at Lemon Grove in Percolation Ponds with Vertical Drains**

#### **Environmental Impacts**

No cultural resources were identified within the Lemon Grove study area, which is the area which would be disturbed by implementation of Alternative 1. There would not be any significant impacts.

#### **Mitigation Measures**

No significant cultural resources impacts were identified and no mitigation measures would be required.

### **4.2.2 Alternative 2: Discharge of Secondary Effluent at Lemon Grove in Percolation Ponds with Vertical Drains plus Advanced Wastewater Treatment and Reclamation of a Portion of the Effluent (Preferred Alternative)**

#### **Environmental Impacts**

Phase 1 of Alternative 2 would be identical to Alternative 1, and there would not be any cultural resources impacts. Implementation of Phase 2 of Alternative 2 would result in disturbance within the STP 2 area and an area within Ysidora Flats. No cultural resources were identified in these areas, and there would not be any significant impacts.

#### **Mitigation Measures**

No significant cultural resources impacts were identified and no mitigation measures would be required.



**4.2.3 Alternative 3: Tertiary Treated Effluent Blended with Secondary Effluent for Groundwater Recharge at Ysidora Flats**

**Environmental Impacts**

Implementation of Alternative 3 would result in disturbance to the AWT area near STP 13, the pipeline corridor from STP 13 to Ysidora Flats and the discharge area within Ysidora Flats. No significant cultural resources were identified within the AWT area or the discharge area. However, as described in Section 3.2, significant cultural resources were found along the pipeline corridor. Installation of a parallel pipeline would result in potential significant impacts to cultural resources.

**Mitigation Measures**

Prior to construction, a historic properties treatment plan would be prepared and submitted to the SHPO. The plan would address preconstruction testing of known archaeological sites, treatment of sites eligible for the National Register of Historic Places, a construction monitoring program, and treatment of newly discovered sites; as well as Native American involvement and a program for dealing with inadvertent discoveries under the Native American Graves Protection and Repatriation Act (NAGPRA).

**4.2.4 Alternative 4: Advanced Wastewater Treatment and Discharge in Cased Wells at Lemon Grove**

**Environmental Impacts**

Implementation of Alternative 4 would result in disturbance to the AWT area near STP 13 and the Lemon Grove Pond area. No cultural resources were identified in these areas, and there would not be any significant impacts.

**Mitigation Measures**

No significant cultural resources impacts were identified and no mitigation measures would be required.

#### **4.2.5 Alternative 5: Advanced Wastewater Treatment with Irrigation of Agricultural Fields and Discharge in Cased Wells**

##### **Environmental Impacts**

Implementation of Alternative 5 would result in disturbance to the AWT area near STP 13, the Lemon Grove Pond area, and the designated pipeline corridor from the AWT area to the irrigation reservoirs. No cultural resources were identified in the AWT or Lemon Grove areas. Although, the pipeline corridor would be entirely within existing roadways and no significant cultural resource have been identified, there would be a possibility for the occurrence of buried cultural resources.

##### **Mitigation Measures**

An archaeological monitor would be present during construction of the pipeline. Prior to implementation of this project, a construction monitoring plan would be developed and submitted to SHPO. It would contain a description of the monitoring program, testing of any newly discovered sites, Native American involvement, and a program for dealing with inadvertent discoveries under NAGPRA.

#### **4.2.6 No Action Alternative**

##### **Environmental Impacts**

With the No Action Alternative, there would not be any construction of vertical drains, AWT plants, cased wells, or live stream discharge systems as described in the proposed action alternatives. Therefore, there would not be any additional potential cultural resources impacts not previously discovered in the FEIS/R.

##### **Mitigation Measures**

With the No Action Alternative, there would not be any potential impacts, therefore, no mitigation measures would be necessary.

### **4.3 BIOLOGICAL RESOURCES**

This impact discussion is a summary from the Supplemental Biological Technical Report in Appendix B.

#### **4.3.1 Alternative 1: Discharge of Secondary Effluent at Lemon Grove in Percolation Ponds with Vertical Drains**

This alternative would use the 22-acre percolation ponds at Lemon Grove and the pipelines and pump stations designed to convey secondary effluent from STPs 1, 2, 3, 8 and 13 to the ponds. The percolation ponds at Lemon Grove are currently under construction. An array of vertical drains would be constructed within the Lemon Grove ponds in order to enhance percolation. A trench to prevent lateral flow of effluent into the Santa Margarita River is proposed within the area previously disturbed.

#### **Environmental Impacts**

##### **Vegetation Communities**

Because the percolation ponds at Lemon Grove are currently under construction as described in the FEIS/R, there would not be any additional direct impacts to vegetation communities from this alternative.

##### **Sensitive Plant Species**

No sensitive plant species were identified at this site as described in the FEIS/R; therefore, no direct impacts to sensitive plant species would result from this alternative.

##### **Sensitive Animal Species**

Since the percolation ponds at Lemon Grove are currently under construction as described in the FEIS/R, there would not be any additional direct impacts to sensitive animal species (e.g. the coastal California gnatcatcher) from this alternative. A salt marsh is located at the toe of the bluffs at the northern boundary of the Lemon Grove site. If effluent from the proposed ponds with vertical drains reaches the salt marsh, this community could be impacted by altered salinity. Large influxes of fresh water could decrease the salinity of the salt marsh, potentially altering the species composition.

Changes in the composition of the salt marsh could potentially be a significant impact depending upon the extent of changes. In order to avoid this potentially significant impact, a barrier trench has been incorporated into the design of the Lemon Grove pond area, as described in Section 2.2.1, and shown in Figure 2-6.

Construction activities would be timed to avoid the breeding season of the least Bell's vireo and the coastal California gnatcatcher. Therefore, there would not be any indirect noise impacts to these species from the proposed project.

Potential effects on groundwater levels, and indirect effects on riparian vegetation dependent upon groundwater, are addressed in more detail in the Programmatic Groundwater and Riparian Habitat Assessment and the Riparian BA. The Programmatic Groundwater and Habitat Assessment found that, during drought years, groundwater decline from effluent withdrawal could have a potential effect on the riparian habitats surrounding STP 3. Although this finding was based on groundwater modeling, the scope of the study did not allow for quantification of these impacts.

## **Mitigation Measures**

### **Best Management Practices**

The following general mitigation measures would apply to all construction activities. These measures are standard Best Management Practices (BMPs) to prevent environmental degradation during construction.

1. Provision would be made to inform the construction contractor(s) about the biological constraints of this project. All sensitive habitat areas to be avoided would be clearly marked on project maps provided to the contractor. These areas would be designated as "no construction" zones. These areas would be flagged by the project biologist prior to the onset of construction activities. In some cases, resources would be fenced or otherwise protected from direct or indirect impacts.
2. A contractor education program would be implemented to ensure that contractors and all construction personnel are fully informed of the biological resources associated with this project. This program would focus on: (a) the purpose for resource protection; (b) contractor

identification of sensitive resource areas in the field (e.g., areas delineated on maps and by flags or fencing); (c) sensitive construction practices (see numbers 3 through 10, below); (d) protocol to resolve conflicts that may arise at any time during the construction process; and (e) ramifications of noncompliance. This program would be conducted by a qualified biologist, and would be a requirement for all construction supervisory personnel.

3. Activities within drainages or other wetland areas (other than in the construction zone), include staging areas, equipment access, and disposal or temporary placement of excess fill, would be prohibited.
4. Vehicles would use existing access roads to the degree feasible. Where new access is required, all vehicles would use the same route. All access routes outside of existing roads or the construction corridor would be clearly marked (i.e., flagged and/or staked) prior to the onset of construction. All access roads outside of existing roads or the construction corridor would be delineated on the grading plans and reviewed by a qualified biologist.
5. Topsoil would be stockpiled in disturbed areas presently lacking native vegetation. Stockpile areas would be delineated on the grading plans and reviewed by a qualified biologist.
6. Fueling of equipment would take place within existing paved roads and not within or adjacent to drainages or native habitats. Contractor equipment would be checked for leaks prior to operation and repaired as necessary. "No-fueling zones" would be designated on construction maps and would be situated a minimum distance of 50 feet from all drainages.
7. Construction in or adjacent to sensitive areas would be appropriately scheduled to avoid potential impacts to biological resources.
8. Erosion and siltation of offsite areas during construction would be minimized. An erosion control plan would be required of the contractor. The project engineer would be responsible for ensuring that the erosion control plan is developed and implemented. The plan would include the use of hay bales, silt fences, siltation basins, and other devices necessary to stabilize the soil in denuded or graded areas during the construction and revegetation phases of the project.
9. A site restoration plan would be prepared and implemented for all areas where vegetation would be temporarily removed for construction. The plan would detail appropriate plant mixes and

methods for reestablishing native vegetation consistent with pre-existing vegetation communities. Plan preparation would be coordinated with the USFWS and the Camp Pendleton Assistant Chief of Staff, Environmental Security (AC/S ES), Land Management Branch.

#### Resource-Specific Mitigation Measures

##### *Coastal California Gnatcatcher*

Potential indirect noise impacts to coastal California gnatcatcher from ambient noise levels within the species' nesting habitat would be avoided through timing of construction. Construction would be scheduled to coincide with the non-breeding season of the coastal California gnatcatcher (August 31 through February 14).

##### *Least Bell's Vireo and Southwestern Willow Flycatcher*

Potential indirect noise impacts to least Bell's vireo and southwestern willow flycatcher from ambient noise levels within the species' nesting habitat would be avoided through timing of construction. Construction would be scheduled to coincide with the non-breeding season of the least Bell's vireo and the flycatcher (September 1 through March 14).

Monitoring and mitigation measures for potential loss of riparian habitat due to groundwater decline downstream of STP 3 are described in the Programmatic Groundwater/Riparian Habitat Assessment and the Biological Opinion for Base-wide riparian resources. This includes frequent monitoring of groundwater wells and vegetation transects upstream and downstream from STP 3 for at least five years. Monitoring for groundwater decline would include the assessments of depth to water, vegetation health and vigor, and vegetation cover. A detailed monitoring plan will be developed by the Base to include these measures, which are further detailed in the Programmatic Groundwater and Riparian Assessment. It also includes an intensive exotic species control program, particularly the control of giant reed (*Arundo donax*).

**4.3.2 Alternative 2: Discharge of Secondary Effluent at Lemon Grove in Percolation Ponds with Vertical Drains plus Advanced Wastewater Treatment and Reclamation of a Portion of the Effluent (Preferred Alternative)**

This alternative would be implemented in two phases. Phase 1 would provide the system of basins at the Lemon Grove site as described in the FEIS/R and for Alternative 1. Phase 2 would include the construction of a equalization basin and an advanced wastewater treatment facility, both at STP 2, and a pipeline connection from the Headquarters West pipeline to an existing pipeline which runs to the proposed discharge pipe and outfall site at Ysidora Flats. In addition, a pipeline would be constructed to connect the STP 1 effluent pipeline west of STP 2, with the new equalization basin within STP 2. The pipeline would cross Pilgrim Creek, and would be installed by directional drilling underneath the creek.

**Environmental Impacts**

The discharge of advanced wastewater treated effluent from two STPs at the Ysidora Flats area would be potentially beneficial, as it would allow greater reuse of effluent from STPs 1 and 2 for groundwater recharge and restoration of riparian habitat. Potential impacts to biological resources from nitrogen and phosphorus loading would be monitored as described in the BMPs below.

**Vegetation Communities**

For Phase 1 of Alternative 2, impacts to vegetation communities would not occur, as discussed for Alternative 1.

Phase 2 would directly impact approximately 1.0 acre of ruderal habitat from the construction of an equalization basin and an advanced wastewater treatment facility, both at STP 2, and a pipeline connecting the Headquarters West pipeline to an existing pipeline which runs to the proposed outfall site at Ysidora Flats. These impacts would not be significant.

The proposed dechlorination facility would be within the disturbed area at STP 2. Therefore, no additional impacts to habitat would occur.

Construction of the outfall at Ysidora Flats would not permanently impact any habitat as the existing pipe would be used to convey effluent. The outfall structure would be placed in the disturbed area of Ysidora Flat to avoid impacts to riparian vegetation. However, the added effluent surplus could

potentially have an impact on the recruited riparian vegetation within the mitigation area. The added water could potentially create freshwater marsh habitat in the mitigation area or convert recruited riparian habitat into freshwater marsh. According to USACOE permits for the BRAC and Levee projects, only successful recruitment of wetlands and riparian habitats are considered acceptable impact mitigation. Multiple discharge points would be installed to dissipate effluent over a larger area and avoid scour impacts to the mitigation area.

#### Sensitive Plant Species

There would not be any direct impacts to sensitive plant species from implementation of Phase 1 because no sensitive plant species were identified at the Lemon Grove pond site. No sensitive plant species were previously identified at STP 2, nor at the Ysidora Flats site as described in the FEIS/R. As such, there would not be any direct impacts to sensitive plant species from Phase 2 of Alternative 2.

#### Sensitive Animal Species

No sensitive animal species have been identified at STP 2 as described in the FEIS/R. As such, there would not be any direct impacts to sensitive animal species from that portion of Phase 2 built at STP 2.

No direct impacts would occur from construction of the dechlorination facility, because the facility would be sited at STP 2. The outfall structure would not impact any riparian habitat, as this structure would be located in a disturbed area. Although no arroyo southwestern toads occur within the project area, it is likely that the BRAC/Levee projects' mitigation site will create habitat for this federally endangered species. The discharge of surplus treated effluent into the mitigation site could create potential breeding ponds for the arroyo southwestern toads downstream from the discharge points.

Indirect impacts from Phase 1 of Alternative 2 would be identical as those for Alternative 1 described in Section 4.3.1.

Construction activities would be timed to avoid the breeding season of the least Bell's vireo, southwestern willow flycatcher and the coastal California gnatcatcher. Therefore, there would not be any indirect noise impacts to these species from the proposed project.



Indirect impacts could also arise from the discharge of effluent at the BRAC/Levee mitigation area at Ysidora Flats. Indirect impacts from the increased effluent discharge and increased nutrient loading could adversely affect the habitat being created. Discharge of too much effluent could convert the mitigation area from willow woodland to freshwater marsh. Similarly, increasing the nutrients on the site could shift the competitive balance from native species to non-native species. Conversion of habitat type and/or increasing the presence of non-native species as a result of effluent discharge would be a significant impact.

#### **Mitigation Measures**

In addition to the BMPs discussed for Alternative 1, the following additional measures would be implemented for Alternative 2:

1. The discharge of advanced wastewater treated effluent to the Santa Margarita River at Ysidora Flats shall be designed and implemented as allowed in an appropriate NPDES in accordance with the mitigation measure for Hydrology and Water Quality Impacts in Section 4.1.2.
2. In accordance with the Biological Opinion (BO 1-6-95-F-02) for Programmatic Activities in Riparian and Estuarine/Beach Ecosystems on Camp Pendleton (USFWS 1995a), the mitigation site at Ysidora Flats would be designed and monitored in conjunction with long-term monitoring programs for the BRAC/Levee projects:
  - A. The proposed outfall or discharge system would be designed such that water would be evenly distributed over the mitigation site to avoid creation of ponded areas and freshwater marsh at the discharge point(s).
  - B. Hydrology (groundwater and surface water) would be monitored to determine hydrological adequacy for the establishment of a riparian wetlands ecosystem. Hydrological adequacy would be evaluated according to the performance criteria of the draft Santa Margarita Hydrogeomorphic (HGM) guidebook established for the mitigation site. Monitoring results would be included in annual monitoring reports for the BRAC/Levee mitigation projects.

- C. Nutrient content in soil and water would be monitored to determine chemical adequacy for the establishment of a riparian wetlands ecosystem. Adequacy of nutrient content would be evaluated according to the performance criteria of the draft Santa Margarita HGM guidebook established for the mitigation site. Monitoring results would be included in annual reports for the BRAC/Levee mitigation projects.
- D. Species recruitment would be monitored for five years following the outfall installation and evaluated against the riparian ecosystem establishment criteria (according to the draft Santa Margarita HGM guidebook). Monitoring results would be included in annual reports for the BRAC/Levee mitigation projects.
- E. Exotic invasive weeds would be monitored and controlled, with the target not to exceed five percent relative cover of the site after five years and twelve consecutive months of monitoring. Monitoring results would be included in annual monitoring reports for the BRAC/Levee mitigation projects.
- F. Potential colonization of arroyo southwestern toads in the area would be monitored. Monitoring results would be included in annual reports for the BRAC/Levee mitigation projects.
- G. Remediation measures would include lowering the effluent volume at the discharge points to prevent the establishment of freshwater marsh habitats in place of willow woodland.

#### **4.3.3 Alternative 3: Tertiary Treated Effluent Blended with Secondary Effluent for Groundwater Recharge at Ysidora Flats**

A proposed AWT facility would be constructed at STP 13. Tertiary treated effluent would be discharged to the Ysidora Flats area to provide recharge to the groundwater and irrigation of riparian vegetation. Three to five times as much effluent could be discharged into Ysidora Flats from Alternative 3 as from Alternative 2. Similar to Alternative 2, a discharge pipe and outfall structure would be constructed at Ysidora Flats.

### **Environmental Impacts**

The discharge of tertiary treated effluent from STP 13, blended with secondary treated effluent from STPs 1, 2, 3, and 8, at the Ysidora Flats area would be potentially beneficial, as it would allow greater reuse of effluent. The effluent would provide groundwater recharge and additional water for the restoration of riparian habitat. Potential impacts to biological resources from large quantities of effluent and nitrogen/phosphorus loading would be monitored, as described in the BMPs for Alternatives 1 and 2.

### Vegetation Communities

As discussed for Alternative 1, there would not be any additional impacts to vegetation communities.

Construction of the AWT Plant at STP 13 would impact 0.6 acre of non-native grassland and 0.4 acre of developed area. These impacts would not be significant.

Impacts from the construction of the effluent discharge outfall would be the same as described in Alternative 2, except that the discharge volume is much greater and the discharge more regular than described for Alternative 2. Thus, there is an increased likelihood for the creation/conversion of freshwater marsh habitat in the mitigation area for riparian habitat recruitment. This potential significant impact would be monitored.

### Sensitive Plant Species

No sensitive plant species were previously identified within the Lemon Grove percolation ponds in the FEIS/R. No sensitive plant species were identified during the survey of STP 13 and none would be expected to occur on this site. No sensitive plant species were previously reported from the Ysidora Flats site as described in the FEIS/R. Therefore, no direct impacts to any sensitive plant species would occur from Alternative 3.

### Sensitive Animal Species

The percolation ponds at Lemon Grove are currently under construction. There would not be any additional direct impacts to sensitive animal species (e.g., the coastal California gnatcatcher) from this alternative that have not already been described in the FEIS/R.

No sensitive animal species were observed during the survey of STP 13. Therefore, there would not be any direct impacts to sensitive animal species from construction of the AWT facility at STP 13.

No direct impacts would occur from construction of the dechlorination facility and outfall. There is an increased likelihood of impacts to arroyo southwestern toad habitat potentially being created by the Ysidora Flats mitigation site. Any impacts to potential arroyo southwestern toads would be similar to those described for Alternative 2, including creation of breeding ponds.

Since the ponds at Lemon Grove are a component of Alternative 3, the indirect impacts described for Alternative 1 in Section 4.3.1 would be the same. Similarly, the indirect impacts associated with the discharge of effluent at Ysidora Flats described for Alternative 2 in Section 4.3.2 would also be similar. However, since the amount of discharge under the Alternative 3 scenario is on a magnitude of almost five times the amount of discharge under Alternative 2, the likelihood of significant indirect impacts to the mitigation site would be greater under Alternative 3.

Construction activities would be timed to avoid the breeding season of the least Bell's vireo and the coastal California gnatcatcher. Therefore, there would not be any indirect noise impacts to these species from the proposed project.

### **Mitigation Measures**

In addition to the BMPs discussed for Alternative 1, the mitigation measures for effluent discharge at Ysidora Flats would be implemented as required for Alternative 2.

#### **4.3.4 Alternative 4: Advanced Wastewater Treatment and Discharge in Cased Wells at Lemon Grove**

Alternative 4 includes: the construction of an AWT facility adjacent to STP 13; the construction of an equalization basin south of STP 13; use of the percolation ponds at Lemon Grove as described in Alternative 1; and the construction of 11 cased, gravity injection wells to allow the effluent to flow to the groundwater. These wells would be located on the perimeter of the percolation ponds, or in areas between the ponds.

### **Environmental Impacts**

#### Vegetation Communities

Potential impacts to vegetation communities would be similar to the impacts discussed for Alternative 1.

Construction of the AWT Plant and equalization basin at STP 13 would impact 0.6 acres of non-native grassland and 0.4 acre of developed area. These impacts would not be significant.

#### Sensitive Plant Species

No sensitive plant species were previously identified within the Lemon Grove percolation ponds in the FEIS/R. No sensitive plant species were identified during the survey of STP 13, and none would be expected to occur on this site. Therefore, no direct impacts to any sensitive plant species would occur from Alternative 4.

#### Sensitive Animal Species

The percolation ponds at Lemon Grove are currently under construction. There would not be any additional direct impacts to sensitive animal species (e.g. the coastal California gnatcatcher) from this alternative that have not already been described in the FEIS/R. This impact would not be significant.

No sensitive animal species were observed during the survey of STP 13. Therefore, there would not be any direct impacts to sensitive animal species from construction of the AWT facility and equalization basin at STP 13.

Construction activities would be timed to avoid the breeding season of the least Bell's vireo and the coastal California gnatcatcher. Therefore, there would not be any indirect noise impacts to these species from the proposed project.

## **Mitigation Measures**

The BMPs for Alternative 4 would be the same as for Alternative 1 at the Lemon Grove Pond site.

### **4.3.5 Alternative 5: Advanced Wastewater Treatment with Irrigation of Agricultural Fields and Discharge in Cased Wells**

Alternative 5 includes: the construction of an AWT facility adjacent to STP 13, the construction of an equalization basin south of STP 13 both as described in Alternative 4, use of the percolation ponds at Lemon Grove as described in Alternative 1, the construction of 11 cased, gravity injection wells as described in Alternative 4 and the construction of a pump station and approximately 7,000 feet of piping, within existing roadways and hung from an existing bridge, to convey the effluent to an existing irrigation reservoir. The treated effluent would be used for crop irrigation.

## **Environmental Impacts**

### **Vegetation Communities**

Potential impacts to vegetation communities would be similar to the impacts previously discussed for Alternative 1.

Construction of the AWT Plant and equalization basin at STP 13 would impact 0.6 acres of non-native grassland and 0.4 acre of developed area. These impacts would not be significant.

### **Sensitive Plant Species**

No sensitive plant species were previously identified within the Lemon Grove percolation ponds in the FEIS/R. No sensitive plant species were identified during the survey of STP 13 and none would be expected to occur on this site. Therefore, no direct impacts to any sensitive plant species would occur from Alternative 5.

### **Sensitive Animal Species**

The percolation ponds at Lemon Grove are currently under construction. There would not be any additional direct impacts to sensitive animal species (e.g. the coastal California gnatcatcher) from

this alternative that have not already been described in the FEIS/R. This impact would not be significant.

No sensitive animal species were observed during the survey of STP 13. Therefore, there would not be any direct impacts to sensitive animal species from construction of the AWT facility and equalization basin at STP 13.

Construction activities would be timed to avoid the breeding season of the least Bell's vireo and the coastal California gnatcatcher. Therefore, there would not be any indirect noise impacts to these species from the proposed project.

#### **Mitigation Measures**

BMPs for Alternative 5 would be the same as Alternative 1 at the Lemon Grove Pond site.

#### **4.3.6 No Action Alternative**

With the No Action Alternative, there would not be any construction of vertical drains, AWT plants, cased wells, or live stream discharge systems as described in the proposed action alternatives. Effluent would be conveyed to the percolation ponds at Lemon Grove in the system now being constructed. Disposal would be by percolation and evaporation. When the Lemon Grove ponds fill and the rate of effluent generation exceeds the percolation/evaporation rate, effluent could be stored at or near the individual plants in the ponds now used for storage and percolation and planned for abandonment. When all storage ponds are full, excess effluent would be discharged to the Santa Margarita River adjacent to the Lemon Grove Ponds. The No Action Alternative would result in continued violation of the Basin Plan.

#### **Environmental Impacts**

##### **Vegetation Communities**

No direct impacts to vegetation communities would occur from this alternative.

Indirect impacts would result from lowering the groundwater table at STP 3 which is addressed in the previous FEIS/R and the Programmatic Groundwater/Riparian Habitat Assessment (MCB Camp

Pendleton ESO 1995). Indirect impacts to the riparian and wetland (including salt marsh) communities of the lower Santa Margarita River and Estuary could potentially arise from increases in the hydrological regime, decreases in salinity and increases in nitrogen and phosphorus loading. Impacts to salt marsh habitat would be considered significant by the resources agencies.

#### Sensitive Plant Species

Southwestern spiny rush (*Juncus acutus* ssp. *leopoldii*) is known from the Santa Margarita River Estuary. Indirect impacts, as described above, are not considered significant as this species occurs across broad environmental gradients. No other sensitive plant species are known to occur within the area of influence for the No Action Alternative.

#### Sensitive Animal Species

Although changes in the saltmarsh ecosystem would be expected from nutrient loading and a decrease in salinity, no impacts to sensitive wildlife species would occur from the No Action Alternative. The federal endangered tidewater goby (*Eucyclogobius newberryi*) is believed extirpated from the site since floods in 1993 (Swift et al. 1994).

#### **Mitigation Measures**

No direct impacts to sensitive plant or wildlife species would occur from implementation of the No Action Alternative. However, potential indirect impacts to salt marsh habitat within the Santa Margarita Estuary from a decrease in salinity and potential nutrient loading, would be mitigated by a long-term monitoring program to include hydrological and soil testing for changes in nutrient and salinity levels, and vegetation and wildlife sampling to note changes in such parameters as species composition and distribution. Potential surface water and estuary habitat impacts could be mitigated by implementation of Alternatives 1, 2, 3, 4, or 5, or a combination thereof which would achieve the purpose and need of the proposed project.



#### **4.4 PUBLIC HEALTH AND SAFETY**

##### **4.4.1 Alternative 1: Discharge of Secondary Effluent at Lemon Grove in Percolation Ponds with Vertical Drains**

###### **Environmental Impacts**

The FEIS/R concluded that the proposed action and alternatives defined in that document would not adversely affect public health and safety within the study area. Since current non-compliance with RWQCB effluent disposal standards is an existing public health and safety concern, implementation of Alternative 1 or other proposed alternatives would have a beneficial effect. In the FEIS/R, short-term construction-related hazards were identified and mitigation measures were recommended to minimize the impact to public health and safety. The potential for the Lemon Grove percolation ponds to become an "attractive nuisance" to children was identified in the FEIS/R as a potential long-term impact. Permanent security fencing would be erected around the ponds, and access to boring holes would be secured when construction workers are not present. In addition, warning signs would be clearly posted to advise people that any contact with water in the ponds is a health danger, per Title 22 of the California Administrative Code.

The current discharge of secondary effluent upstream of potable water supply wells is a public health and safety concern. Implementation of Alternatives 1, 2, 3, 4, or 5 would eliminate this concern, resulting in a beneficial impact.

###### **Mitigation Measures**

###### **Best Management Practices**

In addition to safety fencing, the BMP recommended in the FEIS/R relative to the less than significant safety impacts in construction areas would be applied to Alternative 1. These BMPs include the following:

1. Erect fencing around the heavy equipment and materials storage area.
2. Place shoring in trenches greater than 5 feet in depth to stabilize trenches.

3. Place markers equipped with flashing lights for night-time use along open trenches at intervals of 30 feet or less.
4. Place flagging or fencing around the perimeter of the trench excavation.
5. Cover all borings to be backfilled with trench plate when construction personnel are not at the site.
6. Schedule major earthwork and heavy machinery use during non-peak hours of travel along affected roadways, whenever possible.
7. Conform trenching operations to U.S. Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) requirements.

**4.4.2 Alternative 2: Discharge of Secondary Effluent at Lemon Grove in Percolation Ponds with Vertical Drains plus Advanced Wastewater Treatment and Reclamation of a Portion of the Effluent (Preferred Alternative)**

**Environmental Impacts**

Potential public health and safety impacts would include those discussed under Alternative 1. Phase 2 includes the operation of advanced wastewater treatment facilities, which would use chlorine gas for effluent disinfection. The operation of industrial facilities, in general, and the use of chlorine gas in particular, are potential health and safety hazards to authorized and unauthorized personnel. The potential impact would be less than significant because authorized personnel would be trained in plant operations, and disinfection by chlorination is an existing process at the STPs. The new facilities would be built within an existing fenced area, thereby reducing the potential impact to unauthorized personnel to less than significant.

**Mitigation Measures**

BMPs would be the same as those discussed under Alternative 1. No further mitigation would be required.

**4.4.3 Alternative 3: Tertiary Treated Effluent Blended with Secondary Effluent for Groundwater Recharge at Ysidora Flats**

**Environmental Impacts**

Potential public health and safety impacts would be the same as those discussed under Alternative 2, except that the proposed tertiary treatment facilities would not be built within an existing fenced area. Therefore, the health and safety hazards to unauthorized personnel would be potentially significant.

**Mitigation Measures**

BMPs would be the same as those discussed under Alternative 1. In addition, the proposed tertiary treatment facilities shall be enclosed by a security fence.

**4.4.4 Alternative 4: Advanced Wastewater Treatment and Discharge in Cased Wells at Lemon Grove**

**Environmental Impacts**

Potential public health and safety impacts would be the same as those discussed under Alternative 2. In addition, this alternative would include an equalization basin which would not be constructed within an existing fenced area, which would be a potential “attractive nuisance” hazard.

**Mitigation Measures**

BMPs would be the same as those discussed under Alternative 1. Permanent security fencing and signage would also be installed at the advanced wastewater treatment facilities and the equalization basin.

#### **4.4.5 Alternative 5 Advanced Wastewater Treatment with Irrigation of Agricultural Fields and Discharge in Cased Wells**

##### **Environmental Impacts**

Potential health and safety impacts would be the same as those discussed under Alternative 4. Implementation of Alternative 5 would also result in the use of reclaimed water for irrigation of the leased agricultural fields. Drinking of this water would pose a public health hazard. There would be a potential adverse impact if irrigation water was consumed by agricultural workers or "others", such as residents of the adjacent Stuart Mesa housing area or military personnel. A wall separates the Stuart Mesa housing area from the agricultural fields, decreasing potential access hazards.

Title 22 of the California Administrative Code requires the posting of signs that warn persons that reclaimed water is non-potable. Warning signs would be clearly posted reducing the potential impact to less than significant.

##### **Mitigation Measures**

BMPs would be the same as those discussed under Alternative 1. Permanent security fencing and signage would also be installed at the advanced wastewater treatment facilities and the equalization basin. In addition, warning signs would be written in English, Spanish, and other languages common to agricultural workers and residents of the Stuart Mesa housing area. Prior to conversion of the irrigation system, the Marine Corps would conduct a public information program for the workers, residents, and other personnel considered most likely to gain access to the agricultural fields.

#### **4.4.6 No Action Alternative**

##### **Environmental Impacts**

With the No Action Alternative, there would not be any construction of vertical drains, AWT plants, cased wells, or live stream discharge systems as described in the proposed action alternatives. Therefore, there would not be any new potential public health and safety impacts. However, the potential impact of the disposal of secondary effluent upstream of potable water sources would remain.

### **Mitigation Measures**

With the No Action Alternative, there would not be any potential construction-related impacts, therefore, no mitigation measures would be required.

## **4.5 SOCIOECONOMICS**

### **4.5.1 Alternative 1: Discharge of Secondary Effluent at Lemon Grove in Percolation Ponds with Vertical Drains**

#### **Environmental Impacts**

Implementation of Alternative 1 would not adversely affect socioeconomic resources within the region of influence including: population, employment or the local housing market.

#### **Mitigation Measures**

No mitigation measures would be required.

### **4.5.2 Alternative 2: Discharge of Secondary Effluent at Lemon Grove in Percolation Ponds with Vertical Drains plus Advanced Wastewater Treatment and Reclamation of a Portion of the Effluent (Preferred Alternative)**

#### **Environmental Impacts**

Implementation of Alternative 2 would not adversely affect socioeconomic resources within the region of influence including: population, employment or the local housing market.

#### **Mitigation Measures**

No mitigation measures would be required.

### **4.5.3 Alternative 3: Tertiary Treated Effluent Blended with Secondary Effluent for Groundwater Recharge at Ysidora Flats**

#### **Environmental Impacts**

Implementation of Alternative 3 would not adversely affect socioeconomic resources within the region of influence including: population, employment or the local housing market.

### **Mitigation Measures**

No mitigation measures would be required.

#### **4.5.4 Alternative 4: Advanced Wastewater Treatment and Discharge in Cased Wells at Lemon Grove**

### **Environmental Impacts**

Implementation of Alternative 4 would not adversely affect socioeconomic resources within the region of influence including: population, employment or the local housing market.

### **Mitigation Measures**

No mitigation measures would be required.

#### **4.5.5 Alternative 5: Advanced Wastewater Treatment with Irrigation of Agricultural Fields and Discharge in Cased Wells**

### **Environmental Impacts**

Implementation of Alternative 5 would not adversely affect socioeconomic resources within the region of influence including: population, employment or the local housing market.

### **Mitigation Measures**

No mitigation measures would be required.

#### **4.5.6 No Action Alternative**

### **Environmental Impacts**

With the No Action Alternative, there would not be any construction of vertical drains, AWT plants, cased wells, or live stream discharge, as described in the proposed action alternatives. Therefore, there would not be any adverse effects on socioeconomic resources within the region of influence.

### **Mitigation Measures**

With the No Action Alternative, there would not be any potential impacts, therefore, no mitigation measures would be required.



## **4.6 ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE/PROTECTION OF CHILDREN**

### **4.6.1 Alternative 1: Discharge of Secondary Effluent at Lemon Grove in Percolation Ponds with Vertical Drains**

#### **Environmental Impacts**

Implementation of Alternative 1 would not have any disproportionate effects on low-income or minority populations within the study area.

There are no populations of children in the study area that would suffer disproportionately from environmental health risks or safety risks during construction. The relatively low level of construction traffic and the materials carried by that traffic would not pose any disproportional environmental health risks or safety risks to children compared to baseline conditions. Operational impacts are not considered likely to produce disproportionately high environmental health risks or safety risks to children who reside in the study area, for reasons similar to those stated for construction impacts.

#### **Mitigation Measures**

Incorporation of the construction BMPs discussed in Section 4.4 would minimize any potential health risk to nearby children.

### **4.6.2 Alternative 2: Discharge of Secondary Effluent at Lemon Grove in Percolation Ponds with Vertical Drains plus Advanced Wastewater Treatment and Reclamation of a Portion of the Effluent (Preferred Alternative)**

#### **Environmental Impacts**

Implementation of Alternative 2 would not have any disproportionate effects on low-income or minority populations within the study area, nor would there be significant risks to children. Operation of advanced wastewater treatment facilities would include the use of chlorine gas for disinfection of effluent, as described in Section 4.4.2. Risks to children would be less than significant because of the existing security fencing.

### **Mitigation Measures**

BMPs to minimize the potential health risks to children would be the same as discussed in Section 4.4.1. No further mitigation measures would be required.

#### **4.6.3 Alternative 3: Tertiary Treated Effluent Blended with Secondary Effluent for Groundwater Recharge at Ysidora Flats**

### **Environmental Impacts**

Implementation of Alternative 3 would not have any disproportionate effects on low-income or minority populations within the study area, nor would there be significant risks to children. Operation of tertiary treatment facilities would include the use of chlorine gas for disinfection of effluent, as described in Section 4.4.2. Risks to children would be less than significant with the provision of security fencing.

### **Mitigation Measures**

BMPs to minimize the potential health risks to children would be the same as in Section 4.4.1. Additional fencing would be provided as described in Section 4.4.3.

#### **4.6.4 Alternative 4: Advanced Wastewater Treatment and Discharge in Cased Wells at Lemon Grove**

### **Environmental Impacts**

Implementation of Alternative 4 would not have any disproportionate effects on low-income or minority populations within the study area. The proposed equalization basins may be an "attractive nuisance" hazard for children. Permanent fencing would be installed to minimize risks to children.

### **Mitigation Measures**

BMPs to minimize the potential health risks to children would be the same as discussed for Alternative 3.

#### **4.6.5 Alternative 5: Advanced Wastewater Treatment with Irrigation of Agricultural Fields and Discharge in Cased Wells**

##### **Environmental Impacts**

Implementation of Alternative 5 would not have any disproportionate effects on low-income or minority populations within the study area. As discussed in Alternative 4 (Section 4.6.4), there would be potential health and safety risks to children, from the proposed equalization basin and the use of chlorine gas. Also, Section 4.4 of this SEIS discusses the potential hazard for consumption of reclaimed water in the agricultural fields. A portion of the fields is adjacent to the Stuart Mesa housing area, where many children live. Section 4.4 includes measures to minimize the risks to children, which would not be significant.

##### **Mitigation Measures**

BMPs and fencing and signage for the tertiary treatment facilities and equalization basin to minimize the potential health risks to children would be the same as discussed for Alternative 4.

#### **4.13.6 No Action Alternative**

##### **Environmental Impacts**

With the No Action Alternative, there would not be any construction of vertical drains, AWT plants, cased wells, or live stream discharge systems as described in the proposed action alternatives. Therefore, there would not be any potential for disproportionate effects on low income and minority populations or children.

##### **Mitigation Measures**

With the No Action Alternative, there would not be any impacts, therefore, no mitigation measures would be required.

## 4.7 GEOLOGY AND SOILS

### 4.7.1 Alternative 1 Discharge of Secondary Effluent at Lemon Grove in Percolation Ponds with Vertical Drains

#### **Environmental Impacts**

Implementation of Alternative 1 would require construction of up to 880 vertical drains within the Lemon Grove ponds, and a trench system to intercept lateral groundwater flow. The general plans and specifications used for the work now under construction would be extended to the work required to implement Alternative 1. The potential impacts and mitigation measures for Alternative 1 would be similar to those described in the FEIS/R for project-related construction activities, and are summarized below:

#### Ground Acceleration and Ground Shaking

The project designs and specifications would incorporate measures from current seismic design codes in order to minimize the risk of damage from ground acceleration and ground shaking. Therefore, the potential impact would be less than significant.

#### Soils

Many of the soils in the project area have moderate-to-severe erodability characteristics, as shown in Table 3.1-2. Disturbance of these soils would result in potential impacts from erosion. Pursuant to the Clean Water Act as amended in 1987, the USEPA has implemented the NPDES Permitting Program. All construction projects that encompass five or more acres would require a NPDES General Storm Water Discharge Permit, for construction. In order to obtain project authorization under the NPDES storm water permit, a Notice of Intent (NOI) would be submitted to the USEPA at least 30 days prior to the commencement of construction. The NOI would certify that the construction would incorporate BMP for runoff control.

The scope of the proposed action would require that the contractor comply with NPDES General Permit No. CAS000002 *Waste Discharge Requirements for Discharge of Storm Water Runoff Associated with Construction Activity*. Compliance would include development and implementation of a storm water pollution prevention plan. Some of the erosion prevention measures would include

mechanical retardation and control of runoff with diversion ditches, silt fences, and straw bales; use of temporary sediment basins; and provision of temporary slope protection measures such as netting, mulching, and hydroseeding.

With incorporation of BMP to prevent erosion during construction, and site restoration through proper grading and re-seeding after construction completion, there would not be any significant soil erosion impacts.

#### Liquefaction

Project design specifications would require that soils be compacted and tested to demonstrate compaction to at least 90 percent maximum density. Should poorly consolidated alluvium, which has a moderate to high liquefaction potential be present, this specification would reduce the potential for liquefaction impact to less than significant levels.

#### Paleontological Resources

Some project features may be underlain by sandstone and claystone sedimentary formations which possess a moderate to high paleontological resource sensitivity. Because portions of the project area are underlain by geologic materials that may have high paleontological resource sensitivity, there would be a potential for significant impact.

#### **Mitigation Measures**

To reduce significant impacts on paleontological resources to an acceptable level, the Marine Corps would initiate the following mitigation measures:

1. Areas with high paleontological resource sensitivity would be identified, and environmental monitors would be present when construction activities occur within designated sensitive areas.
2. Experienced environmental monitors would assure that environmental protection measures are maintained, and that paleontological resources are recovered and curated according to approved procedures.

**4.7.2 Alternative 2: Discharge of Secondary Effluent at Lemon Grove in Percolation Ponds with Vertical Drains plus Advanced Wastewater Treatment and Reclamation of a Portion of the Effluent (Preferred Alternative)**

**Environmental Impacts**

Implementation of Alternative 2 would include the construction described in Alternative 1, and additional construction at STP 2 and in the Ysidora Flats area. Potential impacts for geology, soils, and paleontological resources for Alternative 2 would be the same as for Alternative 1.

**Mitigation Measures**

Mitigation measures to minimize potential geology, soils and paleontological impacts would be the same as discussed for Alternative 1.

**4.7.3 Alternative 3: Tertiary Treated Effluent Blended with Secondary Effluent for Groundwater Recharge at Ysidora Flats**

**Environmental Impacts**

Alternative 3 would include excavation and construction for the AWT and equalization basin at Lemon Grove, the pipeline from the AWT to Ysidora Flats, and the discharge system at Ysidora Flats. Potential impacts for geology, soils, and paleontological resources for Alternative 3 would be the same as for Alternative 1.

**Mitigation Measures**

Mitigation measures to minimize potential geology, soils and paleontological impacts would be the same as discussed for Alternative 1.

#### **4.7.4 Alternative 4: Advanced Wastewater Treatment and Discharge in Cased Wells at Lemon Grove**

##### **Environmental Impacts**

Alternative 4 would result in excavation and construction at the Lemon Grove ponds, AWT site and equalization basin. Potential impacts for geology, soils, and paleontological resources for Alternative 4 would be similar to impacts of Alternative 1.

##### **Mitigation Measures**

Mitigation measures to minimize potential geology, soils and paleontological impacts would be the same as discussed for Alternative 1.

#### **4.7.5 Alternative 5: Advanced Wastewater Treatment with Irrigation of Agricultural Fields and Discharge in Cased Wells**

##### **Environmental Impacts**

Implementation of Alternative 5 would require excavation and construction as described for Alternative 4, and for the pipeline from Lemon Grove to the agricultural irrigation reservoirs. Potential impacts for geology, soils, and paleontological resources for Alternative 5 would be the same as for Alternative 1.

##### **Mitigation Measures**

Mitigation measures to minimize potential geology, soils and paleontological impacts would be the same as discussed for Alternative 1.

#### **4.7.6 No Action Alternative**

##### **Environmental Impacts**

With the No Action Alternative, there would not be any construction of vertical drains, AWT plants, cased wells, or live stream discharge systems as described in the proposed action alternatives.

### **Mitigation Measures**

With the No Action Alternative, there would not be any potential impacts, therefore, no mitigation measures would be required.



## 4.8 AIR QUALITY

The majority of emissions associated with each alternative would occur during construction. Heavy equipment used for grading and construction, and lighter vehicles used for crew commuting and other construction tasks would create exhaust emissions. Fugitive dust would be generated by grading, trench excavation, backfill, and travel on unpaved surfaces. Dust emissions associated with construction activities may vary substantially from day to day, depending on the level of activity, the specific operations being conducted, and the prevailing meteorological conditions. The quantity of fugitive dust generated would be proportional to the area of land disturbed, soil moisture content, and the level of construction activity.

### Clean Air Act Conformity

*Location in a Nonattainment Area.* NAAQS have been established for ozone, CO, SO<sub>2</sub>, NO<sub>2</sub>, PM<sub>10</sub>, and lead. Specific geographic areas are classified under the Federal Clean Air Act as either “attainment” or “nonattainment” for each pollutant, based on conformance with or violation of the NAAQS. The General Conformity Rule applies only to actions that generate emissions in nonattainment or maintenance areas. MCB Camp Pendleton is located within the SDAB, a “serious” nonattainment area for ozone and a maintenance area for CO. Therefore, the General Conformity Rule is applicable at the project location.

*Emission of Criteria Pollutants.* The General Conformity Rule requires analysis only of emissions of criteria pollutants and their precursors for which an area is designated to be in nonattainment or that are covered by a maintenance plan. Each alternative would include construction equipment and mobile sources which would emit CO, volatile organic compounds (VOC) and oxides of nitrogen (NO<sub>x</sub>). VOC and NO<sub>x</sub> are the precursors of ozone. Therefore, the General Conformity Rule is applicable to the project-related emissions of CO, VOC and NO<sub>x</sub>.

*Exemptions.* USEPA has determined specific Federal actions, or portions thereof, to be exempt from the General Conformity Rule. Actions are exempt where the total of all reasonably foreseeable direct and indirect emissions does not equal or exceed prescribed threshold levels for a formal conformity determination, called “*de minimis*” levels. Other exempt actions include those which are presumed to conform, and include generally, actions that would result in no emission increase or an increase that is clearly *de minimis*; actions presumed to conform through separate analysis or rule-making actions; and emergency actions. Under 40 C. F. R. § 51.853(d)(4) and 40 C. F. R. § 93.153(d)(4), a conformity

determination is not required for any of the alternatives presented in this SEIS because the action under any one of the alternatives is specifically required to comply with existing environmental laws and regulations. Nonetheless, a conformity applicability analysis was conducted for each alternative to determine the significance of air quality impacts generally, and inform the public as required by NEPA. In accordance with *Chief of Naval Operations Interim Guidance on Compliance with the Clean Air Act General Conformity Guidelines* (U.S. Navy 1994), a Record of Non-Applicability (RONA) has been prepared, and is included in Appendix C of this SEIS.

### **NEPA Significance**

A NEPA analysis differs from the General Conformity analysis in that attainment pollutant emissions are considered as well as nonattainment pollutants. Therefore, emissions of PM<sub>10</sub> and SO<sub>2</sub>, which are not considered in the General Conformity analysis, are included in the NEPA analysis. The *de minimis* thresholds used to evaluate the proposed action for general conformity are appropriate for the determination of a significant impact under NEPA. This evaluation does not address lead, hydrogen sulfide, or vinyl chloride. Although these pollutants are regulated by the federal or state governments, little to no emissions of these substances would be generated during construction or operation of the proposed Alternatives.

### **Emissions Calculations**

Construction emissions have been evaluated using emission factors and methods published in the South Coast Air Quality Management District (SCAQMD) California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) Handbook (1993), which are based upon emissions factors published by the USEPA in *Compilation of Air Pollution Emission Factors, AP-42*.

#### **4.8.1 Alternative 1: Discharge of Secondary Effluent at Lemon Grove in Percolation Ponds with Vertical Drains**

### **Environmental Impacts**

Implementation of Alternative 1 would require construction of up to 880 vertical drains within the Lemon Grove ponds, and a trench system to intercept lateral groundwater flow. Table 4-2 compares the estimated construction emissions with the General Conformity thresholds. As shown in the

**Table 4-2. Estimated Construction Emissions  
Alternative 1**

	Pollutant Emissions - Tons per Year				
	CO	VOC	NO <sub>x</sub>	SO <sub>2</sub>	PM <sub>10</sub>
<b>Total Construction Emissions - Tons</b>	<b>0.2</b>	<b>&lt;0.1</b>	<b>0.2</b>	<b>&lt;0.1</b>	<b>0.5</b>
General Conformity <i>de minimis</i> Thresholds - Tons per year <sup>1</sup>	100	50	50	100	100
Exceed threshold?	No	No	No	No	No

<sup>1</sup> De minimis thresholds for San Diego Air Basin nonattainment pollutants CO, VOC and NO<sub>x</sub>. The basin is in federal attainment for SO<sub>2</sub> and PM<sub>10</sub>; *de minimis* thresholds for SO<sub>2</sub> and PM<sub>10</sub> nonattainment are used for NEPA significance determinations.

table, emissions of CO, VOC and NO<sub>x</sub> would be below the thresholds. Therefore, Alternative 1 emissions would be less than the *de minimis* thresholds, and would conform with the SIP.

Emissions of SO<sub>2</sub> and PM<sub>10</sub> would also be below the thresholds. Therefore, there would not be any significant air quality impact from the construction of Alternative 1. Pollutant emissions following construction would be limited to the emissions from vehicles used by maintenance personnel. The emissions would be less than significant.

### **Mitigation Measures**

There would not be any significant impacts, therefore, no mitigation measures would be required.

#### **4.8.2 Alternative 2: Discharge of Secondary Effluent at Lemon Grove in Percolation Ponds with Vertical Drains plus Advanced Wastewater Treatment and Reclamation of a Portion of the Effluent (Preferred Alternative)**

### **Environmental Impacts**

Air quality impacts associated with Alternative 2 would be similar to, but greater than, those of Alternative 1. A wastewater treatment plant would be constructed at STP 2 and an outfall would be constructed at Ysidora Flats. Table 4-3 compares the estimated construction emissions with the General Conformity thresholds. As shown in the table, emissions of CO, VOC and NO<sub>x</sub> would be

**Table 4-3. Estimated Construction Emissions  
Alternative 2**

	Pollutant Emissions - Tons per Year				
	CO	VOC	NO <sub>x</sub>	SO <sub>2</sub>	PM <sub>10</sub>
Phase 1 emissions = Alternative 1 emissions	0.2	<0.1	0.2	<0.1	0.5
Phase 2 emissions	1.1	0.3	4.9	<0.1	0.4
<b>Total Construction Emissions - Tons</b>	<b>1.3</b>	<b>0.4</b>	<b>5.1</b>	<b>&lt;0.1</b>	<b>0.9</b>
General Conformity <i>de minimis</i> Thresholds - Tons per year <sup>1</sup>	100	50	50	100	100
Exceed threshold?	No	No	No	No	No

<sup>1</sup> De minimis thresholds for San Diego Air Basin nonattainment pollutants CO, VOC and NO<sub>x</sub>. The basin is in federal attainment for SO<sub>2</sub> and PM<sub>10</sub>; *de minimis* thresholds for SO<sub>2</sub> and PM<sub>10</sub> nonattainment are used for NEPA significance determinations.

below the thresholds. Therefore, Alternative 2 emissions would be less than the *de minimis* thresholds, and would conform with the SIP.

Emissions of SO<sub>2</sub> and PM<sub>10</sub> would also be below the thresholds. Therefore, there would not be any significant air quality impact from the construction of Alternative 2. Pollutant emissions following construction would be limited to the emissions from vehicles used by maintenance personnel. The emissions would be less than significant.

### **Mitigation Measures**

There would not be any significant impact, therefore, no mitigation measures would be required.

### **4.8.3 Alternative 3: Tertiary Treated Effluent Blended with Secondary Effluent for Groundwater Recharge at Ysidora Flats**

### **Environmental Impacts**

Implementation of Alternative 3 would require construction of an AWT plant at STP 13, approximately 13,000 feet of pipeline, and effluent distribution facilities at Ysidora Flats. Table 4-4 compares the estimated construction emissions with the General Conformity thresholds. As shown in the table, emissions of CO, VOC and NO<sub>x</sub> would be below the thresholds. Therefore, Alternative 3 emissions would be less than the *de minimis* thresholds, and would conform with the SIP.

**Table 4-4. Estimated Construction Emissions  
Alternative 3**

	Pollutant Emissions - Tons per Year				
	CO	VOC	NO <sub>x</sub>	SO <sub>2</sub>	PM <sub>10</sub>
<b>Total Construction Emissions - Tons</b>	<b>2.5</b>	<b>0.7</b>	<b>9.9</b>	<b>&lt;0.1</b>	<b>1.2</b>
General Conformity <i>de minimis</i> Thresholds - Tons per year <sup>1</sup>	100	50	50	100	100
Exceed threshold?	No	No	No	No	No

<sup>1</sup> De minimis thresholds for San Diego Air Basin nonattainment pollutants CO, VOC and NO<sub>x</sub>. The basin is in federal attainment for SO<sub>2</sub> and PM<sub>10</sub>; *de minimis* thresholds for SO<sub>2</sub> and PM<sub>10</sub> nonattainment are used for NEPA significance determinations.

Emissions of SO<sub>2</sub> and PM<sub>10</sub> would also be below the thresholds. Therefore, there would not be any significant air quality impact from the construction of Alternative 3. Pollutant emissions following construction would be limited to the emissions from vehicles used by maintenance personnel. The emissions would be less than significant.

### **Mitigation Measures**

There would not be any significant impacts, therefore, no mitigation measures would be required.

#### **4.8.4 Alternative 4: Advanced Wastewater Treatment and Discharge in Cased Wells at Lemon Grove**

### **Environmental Impacts**

Implementation of Alternative 4 would require construction of an equalization basin, an AWT plant at STP 13, (less complex than the AWT for Alternative 3), and approximately 11 cased, gravity injection wells adjacent to the Lemon Grove ponds. Table 4-5 compares the estimated construction emissions with the General Conformity thresholds. As shown in the table, emissions of CO, VOC and NO<sub>x</sub> would be below the thresholds. Therefore, Alternative 4 emissions would be less than the *de minimis* thresholds, and would conform with the SIP.

**Table 4-5. Estimated Construction Emissions  
Alternative 4**

	Pollutant Emissions - Tons per Year				
	CO	VOC	NO <sub>x</sub>	SO <sub>2</sub>	PM <sub>10</sub>
<b>Total Construction Emissions - Tons</b>	<b>2.5</b>	<b>0.7</b>	<b>9.9</b>	<b>&lt;0.1</b>	<b>1.1</b>
General Conformity <i>de minimis</i> Thresholds - Tons per year <sup>1</sup>	100	50	50	100	100
Exceed threshold?	No	No	No	No	No

<sup>1</sup> De minimis thresholds for San Diego Air Basin nonattainment pollutants CO, VOC and NO<sub>x</sub>. The basin is in federal attainment for SO<sub>2</sub> and PM<sub>10</sub>; *de minimis* thresholds for SO<sub>2</sub> and PM<sub>10</sub> nonattainment are used for NEPA significance determinations.

Emissions of SO<sub>2</sub> and PM<sub>10</sub> would also be below the thresholds. Therefore, there would not be any significant air quality impact from the construction of Alternative 4. Pollutant emissions following construction would be limited to the emissions from vehicles used by maintenance personnel. The emissions would be less than significant.

### **Mitigation Measures**

There would not be any significant impacts, therefore, no mitigation measures would be required.

#### **4.8.5 Alternative 5: Advanced Wastewater Treatment with Irrigation of Agricultural Fields and Discharge in Cased Wells**

### **Environmental Impacts**

Air quality impacts associated with Alternative 5 would be similar to, but greater than, those of Alternative 4. In addition to the AWT plant and cased wells at Lemon Grove, a pipeline of approximately 7,000 feet in length would be constructed between the AWT and the existing irrigation reservoirs. Table 4-6 compares the estimated construction emissions with the General Conformity thresholds. As shown in the table, emissions of CO, VOC and NO<sub>x</sub> would be below the thresholds. Therefore, Alternative 5 emissions would be less than the *de minimis* thresholds, and would conform with the SIP.

**Table 4-6. Estimated Construction Emissions  
Alternative 5**

	Pollutant Emissions - Tons per Year				
	CO	VOC	NO <sub>x</sub>	SO <sub>2</sub>	PM <sub>10</sub>
Alternative 4 emissions	2.5	.7	9.9	<0.1	1.1
Pipeline construction emissions	0.2	<0.1	0.1	<0.1	0.1
<b>Total Construction Emissions - Tons</b>	<b>2.7</b>	<b>0.7</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>&lt;0.1</b>	<b>1.2</b>
General Conformity <i>de minimis</i> Thresholds - Tons per year <sup>1</sup>	100	50	50	100	100
Exceed threshold?	No	No	No	No	No

<sup>1</sup> De minimis thresholds for San Diego Air Basin nonattainment pollutants CO, VOC and NO<sub>x</sub>. The basin is in federal attainment for SO<sub>2</sub> and PM<sub>10</sub>; *de minimis* thresholds for SO<sub>2</sub> and PM<sub>10</sub> nonattainment are used for NEPA significance determinations.

Emissions of SO<sub>2</sub> and PM<sub>10</sub> would also be below the thresholds. Therefore, there would not be any significant air quality impact from the construction of Alternative 5. Pollutant emissions following construction would be limited to the emissions from vehicles used by maintenance personnel. The emissions would be less than significant.

### Mitigation Measures

There would not be any significant impacts, therefore, no mitigation measures would be required.

#### **4.8.6 No Action Alternative**

##### **Environmental Impacts**

With the No Action Alternative, there would not be any construction of vertical drains, AWT plants, cased wells, or live stream discharge systems as described in the proposed action alternatives. Therefore, there would not be any potential air quality impacts.

##### **Mitigation Measures**

With the No Action Alternative, there would not be any potential impacts, therefore, no mitigation measures would be required.



## **4.9 LAND USE**

Potential land use impacts pertaining to the alternatives are focused on compatibility with existing land uses, consistency with adopted plans at MCB Camp Pendleton and avoidance of known land use restrictions associated with the performance of MCB Camp Pendleton mission operations.

### **4.9.1 Alternative 1: Discharge of Secondary Effluent at Lemon Grove in Percolation Ponds with Vertical Drains**

#### **Environmental Impacts**

##### **Lemon Grove**

Impacts associated with the construction and operation of the Lemon Grove percolation ponds were addressed in the FEIS/R. Implementation of this alternative would not displace any existing land uses, and would not disrupt military maneuvers since the area is not used for any such activities. The Lemon Grove ponds with vertical drains would be compatible with STP 13 and the recycling facility on the north and east, and the transportation corridor on the west. No land uses such as residences, schools, or hospitals are located near the site, therefore, no significant land use incompatibility impacts are associated with the site.

#### **Mitigation Measures**

Alternative 1 would not result in any land use impacts; no mitigation is required.

### **4.9.2 Alternative 2: Discharge of Secondary Effluent at Lemon Grove in Percolation Ponds with Vertical Drains plus Advanced Wastewater Treatment and Reclamation of a Portion of the Effluent (Preferred Alternative)**

#### **Environmental Impacts**

Potential land use impacts at Lemon Grove for Alternative 2 would be similar to those of Alternative 1. Construction of an advanced wastewater treatment plant at the STP 2 site and construction of the distribution pipeline would not result in additional land use impacts. The area proposed for discharge in Ysidora Flats is currently a biological mitigation area. Careful water

quality and biological resource monitoring proposed in Sections 4.1 and 4.3 would assure that this use is preserved.

### **Mitigation Measures**

Alternative 2 would not result in any land use impacts, therefore, no mitigation measures would be required.

#### **4.9.3 Alternative 3: Tertiary Treated Effluent Blended with Secondary Effluent for Groundwater Recharge at Ysidora Flats**

### **Environmental Impacts**

Potential land use impacts at Lemon Grove for Alternative 3 would be similar to those of Alternative 1. Construction of the AWT plant would not displace existing land uses on site, and would not disrupt military maneuvers, as the site is not currently used for any such activities. The AWT plant would be compatible with STP 13, a similar land use, and the adjacent open space and transportation uses. Construction of the distribution pipeline would not result in land use impacts. The area proposed for discharge in Ysidora Flats is currently a biological mitigation area. Careful water quality and biological resource monitoring proposed in Sections 4.1 and 4.3 would assure that this use is preserved.

### **Mitigation Measures**

Alternative 3 would not result in any land use impacts, therefore, no mitigation measures would be required.

#### **4.9.4 Alternative 4: Advanced Wastewater Treatment and Discharge in Cased Wells at Lemon Grove**

Potential land use impact at Lemon Grove would be similar to those of Alternative 1. Construction of the AWT would not result in land use impacts as described in Alternative 3.

### **Mitigation Measures**

Alternative 4 would not result in any land use impacts, therefore, no mitigation measures would be required.

#### **4.9.5 Alternative 5: Advanced Wastewater Treatment with Irrigation of Agricultural Fields and Discharge in Cased Wells at Lemon Grove**

##### **Environmental Impacts**

Potential land use impacts at Lemon Grove, the AWT plant site and the pipelines would be the same as described for Alternatives 1 and 3. No land use impacts would result as a result of agricultural field irrigation.

##### **Mitigation Measures**

Alternative 5 would not result in any land use impacts, therefore, no mitigation would be required.

#### **4.9.6 No Action Alternative**

##### **Environmental Impacts**

With the No Action Alternative, there would not be any construction of vertical drains, AWT plants, cased wells, or live stream discharge systems as described in the proposed action alternatives. Therefore, there would not be any potential land use impacts.

##### **Mitigation Measures**

With the No Action Alternative, there would not be any potential land use impacts, therefore, no mitigation measures would be required.

## 4.10 NOISE

### 4.10.1 Alternative 1: Discharge of Secondary Effluent at Lemon Grove in Percolation Ponds with Vertical Drains

#### **Environmental Impacts**

A discussion of noise levels for various construction activities is included in the FEIS/R. Under Alternative 1, construction noise would result from drilling of the vertical drains and construction of the trench for cutoff of subsurface flow. Trucks would be required to deliver sand and equipment necessary to add vertical drains at the ponds. Approximately two to four round trips per day would be required. Construction noise levels combined with truck noise would be less than 75 dB Leq at the nearest sensitive human receptors. There would not be any significant noise impact to human receptors from installation of the vertical drains at the percolation ponds.

There is noise-sensitive wildlife near the Lemon Grove pond site. Impact to these species would be avoided by scheduling construction during the non-breeding seasons. The impacts of Alternative 1 construction on noise-sensitive wildlife, and associated mitigation measures, are discussed in detail in Section 4.3.

#### **Mitigation Measures**

There would not be any significant noise impact to humans; thus, no mitigation measures would be required. Mitigation measures for potential noise impacts to sensitive wildlife are addressed in Section 4.3 of this SEIS.

### 4.10.2 Alternative 2: Discharge of Secondary Effluent at Lemon Grove in Percolation Ponds with Vertical Drains plus Advanced Wastewater Treatment and Reclamation of a Portion of the Effluent (Preferred Alternative)

#### **Environmental Impacts**

Noise impacts associated with Alternative 2 would be similar to Alternative 1 with the addition of construction noise related to construction of an advanced wastewater treatment plant at STP 2 and a discharge delivery pipeline at the Ysidora Flats area. No human receptors would be significantly

impacted at either STP 2 or Ysidora Flats since the closest noise receptor is 1,200 feet from STP 2 and no receptors are located in the vicinity of Ysidora Flats. Indirect impacts to noise sensitive wildlife would be similar to Alternative 1 with the addition of potential noise impacts to sensitive wildlife near the Ysidora Flats discharge pipeline construction corridor, and the pipe installation site at STP 2 and Pilgrim Creek.

#### **Mitigation Measures**

Mitigation measures would be similar to Alternative 1 with the addition of mitigation measure for potential noise impacts to sensitive wildlife near the Ysidora Flats discharge pipeline corridor and STP 2.

#### **4.10.3 Alternative 3: Tertiary Treated Effluent Blended with Secondary Effluent for Groundwater Recharge at Ysidora Flats**

#### **Environmental Impacts**

Noise impacts at Lemon Grove would be similar to Alternative 2. The proposed AWT would generate noise levels less than 60 dB at 100 feet and would not impact human receptors or noise sensitive wildlife species.

#### **Mitigation Measures**

Mitigation measures for Alternative 3 would be similar to mitigation measures for Alternatives 1 and 2.

#### **4.10.4 Alternative 4: Advanced Wastewater Treatment and Discharge in Cased Wells at Lemon Grove**

#### **Environmental Impacts**

Noise impacts at the Lemon grove site, associated with Alternative 4 would be similar to impacts of Alternative 1, with the addition of impacts associated with the construction of an AWT plant near STP 13. The AWT would generate noise levels less than 60 dB at 100 feet and would not impact human receptors or noise sensitive wildlife species.

**Mitigation Measures**

Mitigation measures for Alternative 4 would be similar to mitigation measures for Alternative 1.

**4.10.5 Alternative 5: Advanced Wastewater Treatment with Irrigation of Agricultural Fields and Discharge in Cased Wells****Environmental Impacts**

Noise impacts of Alternative 4 would be similar to noise impacts of Alternative 1.

**Mitigation Measures**

Mitigation measures for Alternative 4 would be the same as for Alternative 1.

**4.10.6 No Action Alternative****Environmental Impacts**

With the No Action Alternative, there would not be any construction of vertical drains, AWT plants, cased wells, or live stream discharge systems as described in the proposed action alternatives. Therefore, there would not be any potential noise impacts not previously discussed in the FEIS/R.

**Mitigation Measures**

With the No Action Alternative, there would not be any potential impacts, therefore, no mitigation measures would be required.

## **4.11 TRANSPORTATION AND VEHICULAR CIRCULATION**

### **4.11.1 Alternative 1: Discharge of Secondary Effluent at Lemon Grove in Percolation Ponds with Vertical Drains**

#### **Environmental Impacts**

Environmental impacts relative to transportation and circulation would occur during the construction of the facilities required for Alternative 1. Traffic during construction would result from truck traffic removing excavated material from the vertical drains, from construction material delivery, and from occasional light vehicles used by maintenance personnel. This would not cause any long-term impacts on roadway capacity, level of service, or roadway condition.

A discussion of traffic generation and traffic control measures for the original proposed action and alternatives is included in the FEIS/R. Impacts would be limited to traffic disturbances resulting from the construction of pipelines in roadways. The FEIS/R and the project specifications required a traffic control plan for use in maintaining access for vehicles and pedestrians. Use of this plan would reduce potential traffic impacts to a less than significant level.

#### **Mitigation Measures**

No mitigation measures, other than the traffic control plan described in the FEIS/R, would be required.

### **4.11.2 Alternative 2: Discharge of Secondary Effluent at Lemon Grove in Percolation Ponds with Vertical Drains plus Advanced Wastewater Treatment and Reclamation of a Portion of the Effluent (Preferred Alternative)**

#### **Environmental Impacts**

Potential traffic impacts would be the same as those discussed under Alternative 1.

### **Mitigation Measures**

Mitigation measures would be the same as those discussed under Alternative 1.

#### **4.11.3 Alternative 3: Tertiary Treated Effluent Blended with Secondary Effluent for Groundwater Recharge at Ysidora Flats**

### **Environmental Impacts**

Potential traffic impacts would be the same as those discussed under Alternative 1.

### **Mitigation Measures**

Mitigation measures would be the same as those discussed under Alternative 1.

#### **4.11.4 Alternative 4: Advanced Wastewater Treatment and Discharge in Cased Wells at Lemon Grove**

### **Environmental Impacts**

Potential traffic impacts would be the same as those discussed under Alternative 1.

### **Mitigation Measures**

Mitigation measures would be the same as those discussed under Alternative 1.

#### **4.11.5 Alternative 5: Advanced Wastewater Treatment with Irrigation of Agricultural Fields and Discharge in Cased Wells**

### **Environmental Impacts**

Potential traffic impacts would be the same as those discussed under Alternative 1.



### **Mitigation Measures**

Mitigation measures would be the same as those discussed under Alternative 1.

#### **4.11.6 No Action Alternative**

### **Environmental Impacts**

With the No Action Alternative, there would not be any construction of vertical drains, AWT plants, cased wells, or live stream discharge systems as described in the proposed action alternatives. Therefore, there would not be any potential traffic impacts.

### **Mitigation Measures**

With the No Action Alternative, there would not be any potential impacts, therefore, no mitigation measures would be required.

## **4.12 VISUAL RESOURCES**

### **4.12.1 Alternative 1: Discharge of Secondary Effluent at Lemon Grove in Percolation Ponds with Vertical Drains**

#### **Environmental Impacts**

Implementation of this alternative would not result in significant visual impacts. Effluent would be conveyed to the percolation ponds at Lemon Grove in the system now being constructed. The FEIS/R identified short-term and long-term visual disturbances to the natural terrain of the Lemon Grove area, although neither impact was considered to be significant. The principal views of the Lemon Grove area would be from I-5, and, because of the speed of traffic, the views would be very brief. Construction of the vertical drains would not result in additional visual impacts.

#### **Mitigation Measures**

There would not be any significant visual impacts associated with Alternative 1, and no mitigation measures would be required.

### **4.12.2 Alternative 2: Discharge of Secondary Effluent at Lemon Grove in Percolation Ponds with Vertical Drains plus Advanced Wastewater Treatment and Reclamation of a Portion of the Effluent (Preferred Alternative)**

#### **Environmental Impacts**

Implementation of this alternative would not result in significant visual impacts. Construction of the advanced wastewater treatment plant proposed as part of this alternative would not result in significant visual impacts. The advanced wastewater plant would be constructed adjacent to STP 2 and would blend with the existing facilities. The Ysidora Flats outfall area is screened from viewers traveling on Vandegrift Boulevard by intervening vegetation.

#### **Mitigation Measures**

There would not be any significant visual impacts associated with Alternative 2, and no mitigation measures would be required.

**4.12.3 Alternative 3: Tertiary Treated Effluent Blended with Secondary Effluent  
for Groundwater Recharge at Ysidora Flats**

**Environmental Impacts**

Implementation of this alternative would not result in significant visual impacts. The proposed AWT plant would have a visual character that would be similar to the existing adjacent STP. The change of views would be minor, and would not be significant. The Ysidora Flats outfall area is screened from viewers traveling on Vandegrift Boulevard by intervening vegetation.

**Mitigation Measures**

There would not be any significant visual impacts associated with Alternative 3, and no mitigation measures would be required.

**4.12.4 Alternative 4: Advanced Wastewater Treatment and  
Discharge in Cased Wells at Lemon Grove**

**Environmental Impacts**

Implementation of this alternative would not result in significant visual impacts. The proposed AWT plant, equalization basin and cased wells would have visual character that would be similar to the existing adjacent STP.

**Mitigation Measures**

There would not be any significant visual impacts associated with Alternative 4, and no mitigation measures would be required.

#### **4.12.5 Alternative 5: Advanced Wastewater Treatment with Irrigation of Agricultural Fields and Discharge in Cased Wells**

##### **Environmental Impacts**

Visual impacts for the implementation of Alternative 5 would be similar to those described in Alternative 4. There would not be any visual impacts at the agricultural fields.

##### **Mitigation Measures**

There would not be any significant visual impacts associated with Alternative 5, and no mitigation measures would be required.

#### **4.12.6 No Action Alternative**

With the No Action Alternative, there would not be any construction of vertical drains, AWT plants, cased wells, or live stream discharge systems as described in the proposed action alternatives. Therefore, there would not be any potential visual resource impacts.

##### **Mitigation Measures**

With the No Action Alternative, there would not be any visual impacts, therefore, no mitigation measures would be required.

## **4.13 UTILITIES**

### **4.13.1 Alternative 1: Discharge of Secondary Effluent at Lemon Grove in Percolation Ponds with Vertical Drains**

#### **Environmental Impacts**

The construction and operation of Alternative 1 would require little or no use of natural gas, central heating systems, solid and hazardous waste collection and disposal, or potable water. Some nonpotable water would be required for soil compaction, dust control or hydrotesting. The nonpotable water would be provided by contractor or MCB Camp Pendleton water trucks. There would be no significant impact on natural gas, central heating systems, solid and hazardous waste collection and disposal, or potable water utility systems.

Construction of the vertical drains would not require significant electrical energy. Operation of Alternative 1 would require less electrical energy than was analyzed in the FEIS/R, where the pumping of effluent to Occanside was proposed. The FEIS/R concluded that operation of that proposed action would not result in a significant impact to electrical utilities. Therefore, the construction and operation of the vertical drain system would not result in a significant impact to electrical utilities.

#### **Mitigation Measures**

There would not be any significant utility impacts. Therefore, no mitigation measures would be required.

### **4.13.2 Alternative 2: Discharge of Secondary Effluent at Lemon Grove in Percolation Ponds with Vertical Drains plus Advanced Wastewater Treatment and Reclamation of a Portion of the Effluent (Preferred Alternative)**

#### **Environmental Impacts**

The construction and operation of Alternative 2 would require little or no use of natural gas, central heating systems, solid and hazardous waste collection and disposal, or potable water. Some nonpotable water would be required for soil compaction, dust control or hydrotesting. The

nonpotable water would be provided by contractor or MCB Camp Pendleton water trucks. There would be no significant impact on natural gas, central heating systems, solid and hazardous waste collection and disposal, or potable water utility systems.

Construction and operation of the vertical drains, Phase 1 of Alternative 2, would be similar to Alternative 1, and there would be no significant impact to electrical utilities. would not require significant electrical energy. Operation of the Alternative 2 would require electrical energy for the AWT facility. The following analysis of electrical capacity was included in the FEIS/R:

The cost certification process for the Proposed Action required a utility study to verify the Base's ability to accommodate the increased electricity demand. The key project to accommodate this increased demand is the improvements planned for the Haybarn Substation (Military Construction Project P-932) near the corner of Basilone Road and Vandegrift Boulevard. This substation is currently operating at near capacity during peak periods (MCB Camp Pendleton Master Plan). The MCAS and other base facilities have experienced "brownouts". Military construction project P-932, as a mitigation measure, is designed to correct the capacity deficiencies and upgrade feeder and distribution circuits. With the improvements specified in P-932, the Proposed Action would not result in a significant utility impact.

### **Mitigation Measures**

There would not be any significant utility impacts. Therefore, no mitigation measures would be required.

#### **4.13.3 Alternative 3: Tertiary Treated Effluent Blended with Secondary Effluent for Groundwater Recharge at Ysidora Flats**

### **Environmental Impacts**

Alternative 3 would require electrical energy for the operation of the tertiary treatment plant and the pumps to convey STP 13 effluent to the Ysidora Flats discharge system. Utility impacts for Alternative 3 would be similar to those for Alternative 2. There would be no significant impacts.

### **Mitigation Measures**

There would not be any significant utility impacts. Therefore, no mitigation measures would be required.

#### **4.13.4 Alternative 4: Advanced Wastewater Treatment and Discharge in Cased Wells at Lemon Grove**

### **Environmental Impacts**

Alternative 4 would require electrical energy for the operation of the tertiary treatment plant and the pumps to convey the AWT effluent to the cased wells discharge system. Utility impacts for Alternative 4 would be similar to those for Alternative 2. There would be no significant impacts.

### **Mitigation Measures**

There would not be any significant utility impacts. Therefore, no mitigation measures would be required.

#### **4.13.5 Alternative 5: Advanced Wastewater Treatment with Irrigation of Agricultural Fields and Discharge in Cased Wells**

### **Environmental Impacts**

Alternative 5 would require electrical energy for the operation of the tertiary treatment plant and the pumps to convey AWT effluent to the irrigation storage ponds or to the cased well discharge system. Utility impacts for Alternative 3 would be similar to those for Alternative 2. There would be no significant impacts.

### **Mitigation Measures**

There would not be any significant utility impacts. Therefore, no mitigation measures would be required.

#### **4.13.6 No Action Alternative**

##### **Environmental Impacts**

With the No Action Alternative, there would not be any construction of vertical drains, AWT plants, cased wells, or live stream discharge systems as described in the proposed action alternatives. Therefore, there would not be any impacts to public utilities at MCB Camp Pendleton.

##### **Mitigation Measures**

With the No Action Alternative, there would not be any potential impacts, therefore, no mitigation measures would be required.



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## **CHAPTER 5.0**

### **CUMULATIVE IMPACTS**

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5.2	Environmental Analysis	5-10

## 5.0 CUMULATIVE IMPACTS

NEPA requires an analysis of the incremental effects of a proposed action that could result in cumulatively significant impacts when viewed in connection with other closely related past, present, and reasonably foreseeable future projects. Of particular concern is the contribution of the proposed effluent disposal action to overall cumulative impacts of other projects in the area. Section 5.1 addresses several proposed and planned actions at MCB Camp Pendleton and identifies the cumulative setting in which the proposed effluent disposal action would be developed. The other projects are neither dependent on the proposed effluent disposal action nor part of it. Analysis of the environmental impacts of the other projects has been or will be conducted separately, with the results of those analyses incorporated into environmental documents prepared specifically for those projects. The planned actions listed in this section are expected to be completed within the next five years.

### 5.1 OTHER PLANNED ACTIONS

The following on-going or reasonably foreseeable actions are included in this cumulative impacts analysis:

- Santa Margarita River Flood Control (P-010)
- Basilone Bridge Replacement (P-030)
- Santa Margarita River Water Wells Project (P-659)
- Base Realignment and Closure to MCAS/MCB Camp Pendleton
- Parking Apron Expansion (P-049)
- Transportation Infrastructure (P-347)
- Runway Overrun (P-562)
- Highbay Warehouse Phase II (P-050)
- Ultimate Clear Zone (Project PA303M)
- Convert Short Approach Landing System to Airfield Lighting Sequence Flashing System (Project PA403R)
- Communications/Electrical Infrastructure (P-004)
- Western Wire Mountain Family Housing
- DeLuz Family Housing
- San Mateo Point Family Housing

- Northern Power Distribution System (P-046)
- Santa Rosa Water Reclamation Facility 2 MGD Discharge to Murrieta Creek
- San Onofre Area (P-527) and San Mateo/Las Pulgas (P-529) Sewage Effluent Compliance Projects

A brief project description for each of these projects is given below. Figure 5-1 depicts the cumulative projects at MCB Camp Pendleton. To review a complete listing of all programmed projects on-Base, please refer to the MCB Camp Pendleton Master Plan (1992).

#### **Santa Margarita River Flood Control Project (P-010)**

This project involves the construction of a levee and floodwall, storm water management system, sediment control structures, and storm water pump stations for protection of MCAS Camp Pendleton, the Santa Margarita Ranch House complex, STP 3, and the 22 Area warehouse facilities from a 100-year flood event. This project should alleviate potential future impacts to MCAS Camp Pendleton and the 22 and 24 Area facilities due to flooding. The USACOE was a joint lead agency on the project, and the USFWS and the RWQCB served as cooperating agencies for the project's EIS. Extensive efforts by the Base with the cooperating agencies, along with the USEPA resulted in identifying the least environmentally damaging practicable alternative for flood management. Potential impacts are anticipated in the areas of air quality (during construction), hydrology (ground and surface water, supply and quality), biological resources, cultural resources, and visual resources. Construction equipment exhaust and fugitive dust emissions are anticipated to have a temporary impact on local air quality. This project was included in the USFWS' *Biological Opinion for Programmatic Activities and Conservation Plans in Riparian/Beach Ecosystems on MCB Camp Pendleton* (USFWS 1995). Although the Programmatic Biological Opinion (BO) issued by the USFWS in 1995 anticipated up to 32 acres of riparian habitat to be permanently lost and an additional 10 acres to be temporarily impacted, the final design for this project resulted in a permanent loss of approximately 11 acres and a temporary loss of approximately 20 acres. The Final EIS for this proposed action was submitted in November 1997 and the ROD was signed February 6, 1998. Construction of this project is ongoing.

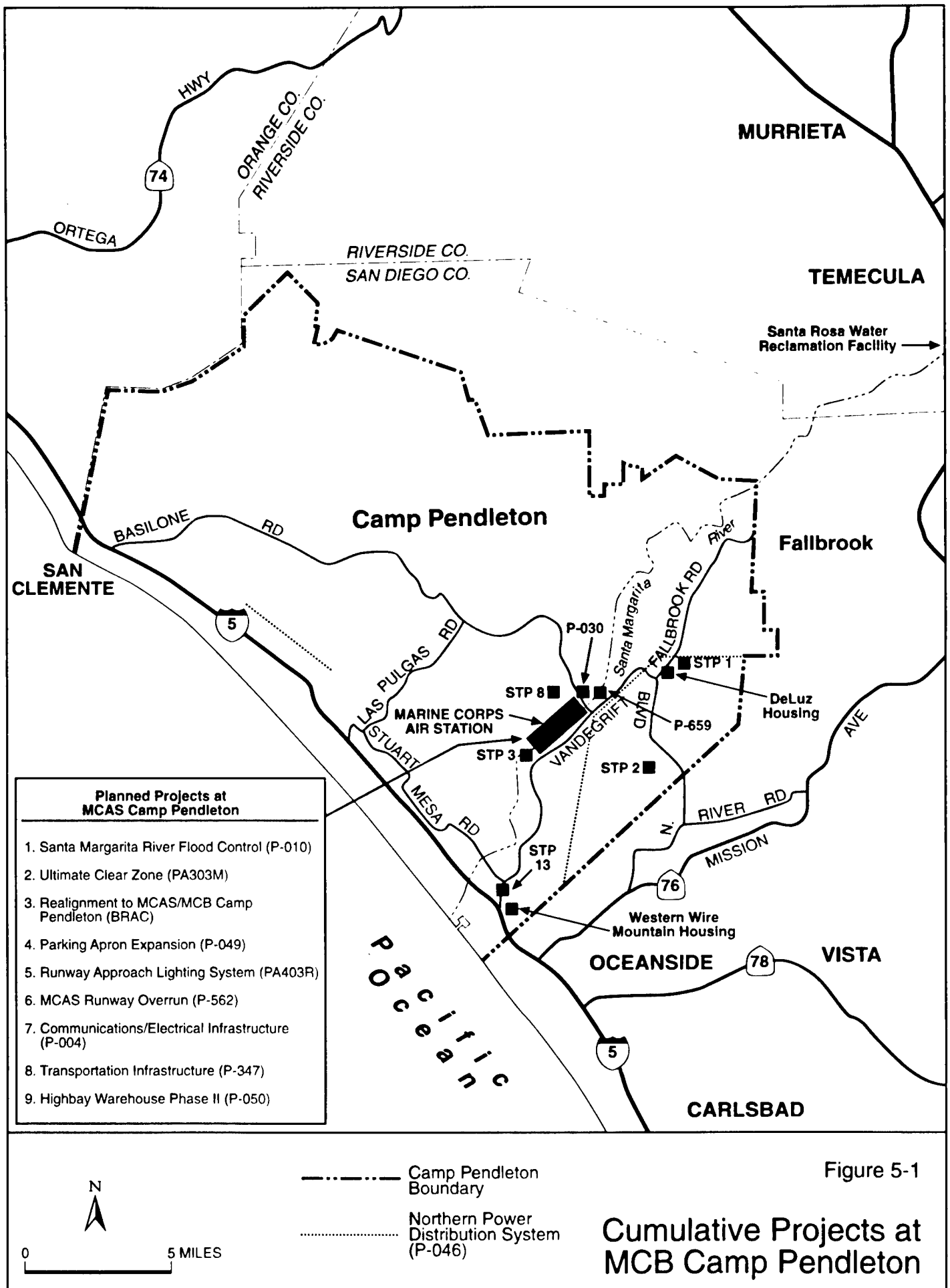
**Basilone Bridge Replacement (P-030)**

This project would replace the temporary bridge constructed after the January 1993 flood with a permanent new bridge designed to withstand a 100-year flood event. This project was evaluated in conjunction with the Santa Margarita Flood Control Project (P-010) in a single EIS which was completed in November 1997. The ROD for these projects was issued in February 1998. Potential impacts are anticipated in the areas of air quality and transportation during construction, along with hydrology (surface water flow), biological resources, and cultural resources over the long term. As indicated in the Programmatic BO issued by the USFWS in 1995, approximately 0.1 acre of permanent impacts and 3 acres of temporary impacts on riparian habitat are anticipated. Cultural resource impacts were addressed as part of NHPA Section 106 consultation and resulted in a Memorandum of Agreement among the Marine Corps, State Historic Preservation Officer, the Advisory Council of Historic Preservation, and Native American tribal organizations. Construction of the project is anticipated in 1999.

**Santa Margarita River Water Wells Project (P-659)**

This project involved the construction of four new water production wells in the lower Santa Margarita River basin (Figure 5-1). MCB Camp Pendleton obtains all potable water used on the installation from wells located within four groundwater basins. During 1993, severe flooding inundated and/or damaged some of the wells constructed without sanitary seals in the lower Santa Margarita River basin. When these wells were inundated, flood conditions resulted in entrainment of surface water resulting in bacteriological contamination of well water. Additionally, some of the existing wells succumbed to mechanical failure due to age.

An environmental assessment (EA) was completed and the Finding of No Significant Impact (FONSI) signed in December 1996. Construction of the new water production wells occurred in 1998. The wells combined produce from 3,500 to 5,000 gpm of potable water for MCB Camp Pendleton. The new water wells replace water wells damaged during the 1993 floods and increase the reliability of the water well system. The typical well design consists of a steel well casing, a 125-horsepower submersible pump, piping, and electrical control equipment located on a steel platform. The construction of four water wells resulted in the removal of 3.19 acres of habitat (3.04 acres of grass forb and 0.15 acres of mixed willow exotic). In accordance with the criteria provided in the BO, in which this action was included, the impacts to biological resources require mitigation through the implementation of an invasive exotic vegetation control program for 5.49 acres.



### **Base Realignment and Closure**

The BRAC actions are realigning military assets from the MCAS Tustin and MCAS EL Toro to MCAS Camp Pendleton. This action would involve the relocation of selected personnel, aircraft, and equipment, and construction of new facilities to accommodate the realigned assets. The proposed action, described in Alternative B in the Final EIS (March 1996), would include construction of new facilities within the air station to accommodate an additional 52 rotary-wing aircraft and 800 personnel for a total of 185 aircraft and 3,900 personnel at MCAS Camp Pendleton. These would include facilities for refueling and fuel storage, training and administrative functions, warehousing and special storage, and aircraft and airfield maintenance. The additional personnel would also require construction of new Bachelor Enlisted Quarters in Chappo (24) Area, including dormitories, fitness facilities, and associated utility systems and parking. Construction of facilities associated with the proposed action would be accomplished through six BRAC projects which began in February, 1997 and are anticipated to be completed in 1999. Aircraft and personnel are projected to begin arriving in the same time frame as the new facilities are completed. The ROD for the EIS was signed in January, 1997.

The BRAC project would result in direct loss of 11.77 acres of riparian habitat currently used by least Bell's vireo (portions of nine 1994 territories) for nesting and foraging (3.84 acres of riparian woodland, 4.35 acres of riparian scrub, and 3.58 acres of mixed willow exotic habitat). An additional 15.02 acres of riparian habitats would be indirectly affected by the implementation of the project due to construction activities (6.56 acres of riparian woodland, 3.16 acres of riparian scrub, 5.30 acres of mixed willow exotic). These direct and indirect impacts would be significant. This level of impact is categorized as a Category II Activity by the recent USFWS Programmatic BO for riparian habitats on MCB Camp Pendleton.

### **Parking Apron Expansion Project (P-049)**

This project would construct additional aircraft parking apron adjacent to the aircraft parking apron constructed under the BRAC projects. Construction of this project is projected for 1998. Due to the disturbed conditions of the construction area, potential impacts are limited to air quality and aircraft operations during construction, and hydrology (surface water quality). This action was categorically excluded from NEPA analysis.



### **Transportation Infrastructure (P-347)**

This project involves the construction of an additional Troop Staging Area and roads and parking lots on the air station to create a logical, safe, and efficient layout of the local transportation system. This project corrects long-standing deficiencies. Due to the disturbed condition of the construction area, potential impacts are limited to air quality during construction, hydrology (surface water only), and transportation (beneficial). A categorical exclusion has been completed for this project and construction was completed in December 1997.

### **Runway Overrun (P-562)**

This project would construct a paved area at the end of the MCAS Camp Pendleton runway to comply with Federal Aviation Administration safety regulations. The project would protect aircraft from damage in an aviation mishap event. The proposed action would involve the construction of a 1,000-foot-long by 200-foot-wide paved runway overrun area extending from and attached to the south end of the existing 6,000-foot-long runway. The proposed action would include asphaltic concrete paving, drainage improvements, and electrical conduit. Potential impacts are anticipated in the areas of air quality, hydrology, biological resources (approximately 2.7 acres of impact to riparian habitat), and aircraft operations during construction. A previously prepared EA has been updated to address the impacts associated with this project. The project is the subject of a separate Section 7 Endangered Species Act consultation (re-initiation) with the USFWS, and is anticipated to be completed in September 1998.

### **Highbay Warehouse Phase II (P-050)**

This project would construct a highbay automated warehouse as a follow-on to the warehouse constructed under BRAC. Construction of this project is projected for 1998. This facility satisfies the aviation supply requirement related to existing deficiencies. Potential impacts are anticipated in the areas of air quality during construction, surface hydrology, and visual resources. This action has been categorically excluded from NEPA analysis.

### **Ultimate Clear Zone (PA 303M)**

Aircraft operation safety guidelines established by Naval Air Systems Command (NAVAIR) requires that a zone cleared of all obstructions be established at the end of all active runways. This Ultimate Clear Zone shall extend 500 feet on either side of the center line of the runway and overrun

and shall extend 1,000 feet from the end of the runway. Construction activity under this project would include clearing all vegetation except grass within this 27-acre area (1,000 feet by 1,000 feet). Mitigation measures will be established as part of the NEPA process in accordance with terms of the BO. Currently, this project is programmed but not funded. The environmental documentation for this project has not begun.

#### **Convert Short Approach Landing System to Airfield Lighting Sequence Flashing System (PA 403R)**

This project would upgrade the Short Approach Land System (SALS) approach lighting to an Airfield Lighting Sequence Flashing System (ALSF-1). Each lighting unit of the ALSF-1 system would consist of support poles with cross arms for the light mountings. Work would need to be completed during the dry season (including part of the breeding season), in order to facilitate construction access within the river. The project has not been scheduled for construction, and is unfunded.

#### **Communications/Electrical Infrastructure (P-004)**

This project was originally programmed for FY 1995 and construction is now completed. Construction involved the installation of approximately 18,000 linear feet of underground electrical duct bank with cables. The system replaces aging infrastructure supporting airfield lighting, radar and weather equipment, and primary electrical distribution for buildings and telephones. Potential impacts were identified for resources including air quality during construction and hydrology. A categorical exclusion was completed for this project (Figure 5-1).

#### **Western Wire Mountain Family Housing**

This project, located on the north and south sides of Wire Mountain Road, would provide additional critically needed on-base military family housing for enlisted service members (E-4 to E-9). The proposed development would provide between 300 to 400 housing units, including 'tot lots' and open space areas. Infrastructure improvements would also be included with the project. This action is planned for 1999. An EA has been initiated, but not completed, for the proposed Western Wire Mountain Family Housing development.

### **DeLuz Family Housing**

This project, located just south of the Naval Weapons Station, Seal Beach – Fallbrook Annex, would provide additional critically needed on-base military family housing for enlisted service members (E-1 to E-9). The proposed development would provide up to 254 housing units, including tot lots and open space areas, and renovation or replacement of 512 existing dwelling units. Infrastructure improvements would also be included with the project. This action is planned for 1999. An EA has been initiated, but not completed, for the proposed DeLuz Family Housing development.

### **San Mateo Point Family Housing**

The construction of 120 duplex, company grade officer housing units (60 duplexes) in two phases (76 units and 44 units) is ongoing at San Mateo Point in the northern area of MCB Camp Pendleton. The Finding of No Significant Impact (FONSI) was issued in January, 1997, and completion of the project is anticipated in February, 1999.

### **Northern Power Distribution System (P-046)**

This project would include three new 12 kilovolt (kV) power distribution lines and upgrades of two 4 kV power distribution systems to 12 kV power distribution systems. The three new power distribution lines would be as follows: (1) one line would run approximately 5.4 miles from Haybarn substation northeast to the boundary with the Naval Weapons Station, Seal Beach - Fallbrook Annex then east along that boundary to the eastern boundary of the Base, traversing the northern edge of the site for the proposed new DeLuz housing; (2) a second line would run approximately 5.2 miles from Haybarn substation south to the Base boundary; (3) a third line would run approximately 4.1 miles (6.6 kilometers) from the Las Pulgas substation north along El Camino Real to connect with a 12 kV SDG&E line feeding MCB Camp Pendleton (Figure 5-1). Along most of the alignments, new lines will parallel existing SDG&E lines and be accessed via existing paved roads or unpaved access roads. This action would also include the installation of two new voltage regulators, power distribution system upgrades for the 13 and 21 Areas, and new 69 kV metering stations would be installed at Stuart and Las Pulgas substations. This action would reduce electrical energy costs for MCB Camp Pendleton by improving the reliability of electrical power distribution, reducing energy consumption on-base, and allowing the Base to purchase electrical power at a cheaper transmission rate (69 kV). At this time, the NEPA documentation for the project has not been completed. Biological and cultural resources analyses are currently being performed for this project.

**Santa Rosa Water Reclamation Facility 2 MGD Discharge Demonstration Project**

The project, which began in December, 1997, occurs upstream from the Santa Margarita River, on the Murrieta Creek tributary located approximately 10 miles off base to the northeast. The project discharges 2 MGD of tertiary treated and disinfected reclaimed water to Murrieta Creek from the Rancho California Water District (RCWD) Santa Rosa Water Reclamation Facility (SRWRF) and provides for monitoring to determine the impacts of such discharge.

The facility currently provides secondary treatment through a sequential batch reaction process. This method of secondary treatment, with methanol addition, achieves a high level of removal of nitrogen and phosphorous compounds. The SRWRF also provides chemical addition, tertiary coagulation and filtration, chlorination, and dechlorination. The discharged reclaimed water complies with unrestricted body contact criteria set forth in Title 22, Division 4, of the *California Code of Regulations* (Title 22). Two MGD of the reclaimed water is introduced into Murrieta Creek and flows into the Santa Margarita River. SRWRF reclaimed water production in excess of 2 MGD is directed to existing percolation and water reuse operations. An NPDES permit was obtained for this project from the RWQCB and EPA. At the 2 MGD demonstration flow rate, the reclaimed water reaches Camp Pendleton only when there is surface flow. In normal dry seasons, the discharge drains to the groundwater north of the Base.

To address stream discharge issues, the RCWD, MCB Camp Pendleton, the Fallbrook Public Utility District (FPUD), and the Eastern Municipal Water District (EMWD), cooperated in a comprehensive study of reclaimed water stream discharge scenarios and impacts. The results of this effort were presented in the *Santa Margarita River Basin Water Quality Protection Study*, and a Four Party Agreement was established. In addition to allocating reclaimed water production of the EMWD and the RCWD, the Four Party Agreement established provisions under which EMWD and RCWD would provide reverse osmosis well-head treatment of downstream groundwaters.

As part of the agreement, the 2 MGD project required monitoring and evaluation on the environmental and health impacts downstream from the discharge from Murrieta Creek to the Santa Margarita Estuary. In compliance with the NPDES permit, the RCWD is performing this monitoring at several points along the river, including two surface water points on base and at the Camp Pendleton Santa Margarita River potable water wells.

The 2 MGD demonstration project is the only part of the agreement currently being implemented. The demonstration project includes plans to increase the amount of discharge to approximately 15 MGD. However, any future increase will require new environmental evaluation considering the observed effects of the present demonstration project. A discharge of 15 MGD would reach the Base during the summer and would add to the groundwater recharge.

### **San Onofre Area (P-527) and San Mateo/Las Pulgas (P-529) Sewage Effluent Compliance Projects**

The two other sewage effluent compliance projects at MCB Camp Pendleton are the San Onofre Area project and the San Mateo/Las Pulgas project. These projects had independent environmental documentation completed. A brief description of each project is provided below; more detailed information is contained in the MCB Camp Pendleton Master Plan.

Sewage effluent compliance is required at four other treatment plants on-Base, located within the San Onofre Area and the Las Pulgas/San Mateo areas. In order to comply with the Basin Plan, treated sewage effluent, currently discharged to groundwater and surface water, would be discharged downstream of potable water supply wells via pipeline. With respect to the Las Pulgas/San Mateo project, the treated effluent would be disposed by means of equalization basins and injection wells. Treated effluent associated with the San Onofre project would be disposed by means of percolation basins downstream of potable water supply wells. This project has been constructed.

## **5.2 ENVIRONMENTAL ANALYSIS**

The other planned actions discussed in Section 5.1 above were evaluated for cumulative impacts related to the environmental resources discussed in this SEIS. The localized nature of certain environmental effects, the short-term nature and timing of the construction effects, and comprehensive basewide policies for managing environmental resources and mitigation of impacts are all factors which were considered in the significance of cumulative impacts. The potential cumulative impacts for each of the environmental resources are discussed below.

NEPA requires only a discussion of those cumulative impacts with the potential for significance. As indicated in the project descriptions each of the projects have addressed potential environmental impacts in the project-specific NEPA documentation. Most of the potential impacts of these projects are either below a level of significance or have been mitigated to a level below significance. The

following discussion of cumulatively significant impacts considers those impacts that may not be individually significant, but may be cumulatively significant for the resources affected.

The long-term impacts of the proposed action on cultural resources, public health and safety, socioeconomics, environmental justice/protection of children, geology and soils, land use, noise, transportation and vehicular circulation, visual resources, and utilities would not be significant or would be reduced to a level below significance through mitigation measures. These resource areas would not contribute to significant cumulative impacts and accordingly, are not analyzed below.

The following environmental analysis focuses on those projects proposed on Base that, in conjunction with the proposed action, have the potential to cumulatively affect water quality/quantity, air quality, and biological resources. These potential effects are analyzed below.

#### **5.2.1 Water Quality/Quantity**

In order to address the potential cumulative effects of the sewage effluent compliance projects in four basins at MCB Camp Pendleton, a Groundwater/Riparian Study was completed (MCB Camp Pendleton 1995). Groundwater models were utilized to determine the effect of removal or relocation of treated effluent discharges in the Lower Santa Margarita, Las Pulgas, San Mateo, and San Onofre Basins. The models determined the potential effects on groundwater levels and the resultant effects on riparian vegetation and endangered species in the four basins. The analysis concluded that there would not be any cumulative, adverse effects on groundwater levels in the four basins as a result of the proposed sewage effluent compliance projects. (Potential effects in the Lower Santa Margarita Basin are addressed in Section 4 of this SEIS).

The groundwater analysis also included a qualitative analysis of the cumulative effects of the proposed action and the flood control levee project on groundwater resources in the Lower Santa Margarita Basin. The levee would protect the adjacent MCAS Camp Pendleton from major flood events in the Santa Margarita River. The levee could reduce the amount of groundwater recharge during major storm events, but the groundwater analysis concluded that this would not be a significant effect on groundwater availability in the basin. There would be no cumulative groundwater effects from these two adjacent projects in the Lower Santa Margarita Basin.

The Final EIS for the BRAC project determined that the addition of new personnel could result in potential long-term overdraft of groundwater resources (U.S. Navy 1996). Mitigation measures for

the BRAC projects, including limitations of water supply to the safe yield of groundwater sources, and implementation of water conservation measures to reduce and control water demand would be sufficient to reduce any significant impact to a level below significance. Therefore, there would not be any significant cumulative impacts to groundwater levels.

The water wells project (P-659) would not result in significant impacts on the supply of groundwater, because the wells do not generate the water demand. The proposed wells would simply increase the reliability of the water supply system to deliver the required water supplies. In addition, the upgraded well systems, with sanitary seals and pumps elevated above the 100-year flood level, would alleviate impacts to groundwater quality. The EA assumed that water withdrawals would be limited to the safe yield of the aquifer. This is the same assumed mitigation measure adopted by other major projects (i.e., BRAC) that would affect water demand.

The water supply necessary for the three (Western Wire Mountain, DeLuz, and San Mateo Point) family housing projects would be accommodated by existing and future connections to Base and Tri-City Municipal Water District (TCMWD) water sources. The Western Wire Mountain and DeLuz projects may be accommodated with existing Base water supplies without reaching safe yield limits. The San Mateo Point Project would use TCMWD sources without reaching safe yield limits. Therefore, water supply would not be affected in a cumulative sense. In addition, potential water supply impacts in the future would continue to be analyzed on a project-by-project basis. Construction of the new water production wells (P-659), scheduled for completion in mid-1998, would produce from 3,500 to 5,000 gpm of potable water for MCB Camp Pendleton. This action would not increase consumption on-Base; rather, the wells would serve to increase the production capacity of MCB Camp Pendleton. Therefore, no significant cumulative impacts would occur to water quantity.

The Western Wire Mountain site is served by STP 13. The capacity of STP 13 would be improved with the two recommended improvements described in the *Draft Wire Mountain Housing Capacity Study, Sewage Treatment Plant No. 13 (Twin Lakes)* (U.S. Navy 1998d). The two improvements would be: (1) to construct an additional chlorine contact tank; and (2) to install a heating system for two primary anaerobic digesters at the plant. The existing sewer gravity main from the DeLuz site to the STP 1 is adequate to handle the additional effluent generated by the housing development. However, the existing sewer lift station within the DeLuz housing area does not have the capacity to handle the additional effluent and would require replacement with a larger capacity station. By disposing of sewage effluent via percolation basins, irrigation, or disposal to the river after advanced treatment, the combined sewage effluent disposal projects in the four major basins on the Base

would cumulatively decrease the likelihood of degraded water quality in potable water wells downstream of the STPs. Thus, a cumulatively beneficial impact on surface and groundwater quality would result.

In complying with RWQCB Cease and Desist orders, MCB Camp Pendleton proposes to terminate existing reclaimed water discharges within the lower Santa Margarita River basin. This proposed action would result in the reduction by approximately 2 MGD of the amount of water recharged to the downstream portions of MCB Camp Pendleton's groundwater basins. The RCWD 2 MGD reclaimed water stream discharge predominantly recharges only the most upstream portions of the basins on base. From a basin-wide standpoint, the proposed 2 MGD RCWD stream discharge would not result in any net increase in reclaimed water contributions to the Base's groundwater basins, and would not contribute to cumulatively significant impacts to water quality or quantity.

### 5.2.2 Air Quality

The other on-Base projects, when considered with the proposed action, would not have a long-term cumulative impact on air quality. Construction associated with the other projects, however, may occur in the same timeframe as construction for the proposed action and result in a short-term adverse effects on air quality. This potential cumulative impact would be mitigated through site-specific measures.

The proposed action and each of the other proposed actions (P-010, P-562, P-659, and BRAC) would each be in conformity with the State Implementation Plan (SIP) of California for  $O_3$  and its precursors (VOCs and  $NO_x$ ). These are the only criteria pollutants that San Diego Air Basin (SDAB) is currently in nonattainment for NAAQS. At the peak of construction activities for all projects that would occur between 1998 and mid-1999, none of the annual project emissions would individually exceed the *de minimis* threshold for VOC or  $NO_x$  of 50 tons per year, or the threshold of 100 tons per year for CO. Cumulatively, the emissions from the various projects, including the proposed effluent disposal action, may exceed these thresholds. However, the effluent disposal facilities construction would last on the order of six months to one year, and the emissions would cease. Therefore, the impact would be considered cumulatively adverse, but not significant.

Air emissions from diesel-powered pump operations at the emergency pump station associated with the flood control project (P-010) would be below the *de minimis* threshold for VOC and  $NO_x$ . The resulting contribution of emissions in the air basin would be within total projected emissions



associated with the growth in power consumption, and would not result in a significant cumulative impact. The BRAC activities would generate higher operational emissions due to aircraft, aircraft equipment, motor vehicles, and living quarters. However, the estimated annual emissions for the BRAC proposed action were found to be substantially below the significance threshold level (U.S. Navy, 1996). None of the proposed projects would contribute total annual emissions of more than 10 percent of the regional emissions in SDCAPCD. Long-term direct emissions from operations of the proposed effluent disposal facilities would be limited to the small number of vehicles used by operating and maintenance personnel. With the small amount of direct emissions attributable to the proposed effluent disposal action, the contribution to long term cumulative air quality impacts would be considered less than significant.

### **5.2.3 Biological Resources**

Because the proposed actions would occur in the lower Santa Margarita Basin, one of MCB Camp Pendleton's most sensitive biological resources, project construction and operation activities may have potential significant cumulative impacts on biological resources. To address the potential significant cumulative impacts to these sensitive biological resources, MCB Camp Pendleton has consulted with the USFWS on a Riparian and Estuarine Ecosystem Conservation Program. A BA (MCB Camp Pendleton 1994) and subsequent BO (USFWS 1995) were prepared addressing the programmatic impacts and mitigation requirements for various projects in these ecosystems on MCB Camp Pendleton, including those identified above. MCB Camp Pendleton will apply this programmatic consultation to all ongoing and future actions in the Santa Margarita River basin, as they potentially affect the integrity of riparian and estuarine/beach ecosystems. Thus, the BO addresses the potential cumulative aspects on federally listed and proposed species from the Santa Margarita River Flood Control Project, Basilone Road Bridge Replacement, the Water Wells Project, and this proposed action, the Sewage Effluent Compliance Project, encompassed in the FEIS/R. The BO also establishes a procedure for addressing future actions that were not covered under the initial BA. Although this project has changed as reflected in this SEIS, the mitigation measures required under the BO have been employed. Biological resources affected by the proposed BRAC activities have been evaluated in a separate EIS, and required separate concurrence from the USFWS to meet Section 7 requirements of the Endangered Species Act (U.S. Navy, 1996).

The permanent long-term effects of P-010, P-030, P-659, and P-527 would result in cumulative impacts to biological resources. However, USFWS has determined that these projects would not jeopardize the continued existence of the three federally-listed endangered species (i.e., the arroyo southwestern toad, the least Bell's vireo, and the southwestern willow flycatcher) and one federally listed threatened species (i.e., the California gnatcatcher) that occur in the collective area of potential effect for these projects. Through the implementation of various habitat enhancement and management features of MCB Camp Pendleton's Comprehensive Riparian Conservation Program and project-specific habitat replacement mitigation measures, direct and cumulative impacts would be minimized. Wetlands impacts from P-010 were coordinated with the USACOE as a separate process under the Clean Water Act (Section 404 permit). Mitigation measures for each of the other projects have been addressed in completed environmental documents or would be addressed in subsequent environmental documents in accordance with the terms of the BO.

Permanent loss of natural habitats following construction of the approved portion of P-527B would be associated primarily with creation of the new ponds in the Lemon Grove area. Effects, if any, on regional wildlife movement would be mostly temporary and minimal. In light of measures incorporated into the project design to avoid, minimize, and mitigate losses of biological resources, the cumulative effects of the project on biological resources would not be significant.

A cumulative increase in temporary ambient noise levels during construction within nesting habitat of the least Bell's vireo and the southwestern willow flycatcher would not be significant to nesting pairs, as all construction, except that associated with P-010 and P-030, would occur outside of the breeding season.

Although the proposed action would contribute to the cumulative impacts of habitat loss and wildlife movement in the region, impacts would be minimized due to the following measure:

- MCB Camp Pendleton has prepared a BA that provides a comprehensive inventory of riparian biological resources and evaluates potential cumulative impacts on those resources, resulting from the construction of a number of projects planned at MCB Camp Pendleton in the reasonably foreseeable future. The goal of the BA is to avoid or minimize cumulative impacts to biological resources. The BA is also used as a tool to plan and design proposed projects with the intent of preserving and maintaining, to the greatest extent possible, biological resources throughout the Base. The USFWS issued a BO in October 1995 that concurred with the implementation of basewide management programs to minimize cumulative effects to riparian

## 5.0 Cumulative Impacts

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resources. Therefore, cumulative impacts on the biological resources in the region associated with the proposed action would not be significant.

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## **CHAPTER 6.0**

### **OTHER CONSIDERATIONS REQUIRED BY NEPA**

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<b>6.1</b>	<b>Short-Term Uses and Long-Term Productivity</b>	<b>6-1</b>
<b>6.2</b>	<b>Irreversible and Irretrievable Commitments of Resources</b>	<b>6-1</b>

## **6.0 OTHER CONSIDERATIONS REQUIRED BY NEPA**

### **6.1 SHORT-TERM USES AND LONG-TERM PRODUCTIVITY**

NEPA requires an EIS to address the relationship between short-term uses of the environment and the impact that such uses may have on the maintenance and enhancement of the long-term productivity of the affected environment. Of particular concern are impacts which would narrow the range of beneficial uses of the environment. This refers to the possibility that choosing one development option would reduce future flexibility in pursuing other options, or that giving over a parcel of land or other resource to a certain use would eliminate the possibility of other uses being performed at that site.

Short-term effects from project construction would include impacts to air quality. Short-term impacts to air quality would result from increased engine exhaust fugitive dust (PM<sub>10</sub>) emissions. However, minor and short-term emissions would cease upon completion of construction, and would not hinder the projected attainment of the national ozone standard in San Diego County. This negligible impact would be short-term and would not affect the long-term productivity of this resource.

A long-term loss of biological resources would occur from implementing the proposed action. The impacts and compensatory mitigation for these impacts would not interfere with the long-term productivity of these resources.

The long-term loss of water resources (effluent discharge) in the basin north of STP 13 would be offset by the effect of the discharge at Lemon Grove, which would be the enhancement of a barrier to salt water intrusion. There would be no adverse impact to the long-term productivity of the environment.

### **6.2 IRREVERSIBLE AND IRRETRIEVABLE COMMITMENTS OF RESOURCES**

NEPA requires an analysis of significant irreversible effects. Resources which are irreversibly or irretrievably committed to a project are those that are utilized on a long-term or permanent basis. This includes the use of non-renewable resources such as metal, wood, fuel, paper, and other natural or cultural resources. These resources are non-retrievable in that they would be utilized for the

proposed action, when they could have been conserved or utilized for other purposes. Another impact which falls under the category of the irreversible and irretrievable commitment of resources is the unavoidable destruction of natural resources which could limit the range of potential uses of that particular environment.

The construction of the proposed action would result in an irretrievable commitment of building materials and fuel for construction vehicles and equipment. In addition, the proposed action would commit work force time for construction, engineering, environmental review and compliance, and, after project completion, operation and maintenance. Operation and maintenance would be expected to require the provision of three full-time jobs per year to oversee the system of pumps, pipelines, and associated facilities.

In summary, the commitments of the proposed action which would be considered irreversible would be the use of the material resources and human labor to construct and operate the facilities. These commitments are not considered to be significant.

There would also be irreversible loss of biological habitat and visual resources with implementation of the proposed action. However, with the mitigation measures prescribed in this document, these impacts would not be significant.

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**CHAPTER 7.0**  
**LIST OF PREPARERS**

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## 7.0 LIST OF PREPARERS

Tom Larkin  
B.A., Zoology  
Years of Experience: 23

Shawn Shamlou  
M.A., Geography  
Years of Experience: 5

Jim Kurtz  
B.S., Engineering  
Years of Experience: 26

Andrew York  
M.A., Cultural Resources Management  
Years of Experience: 14

Christina Schaefer  
M.L.A., Landscape Architecture  
Years of Experience: 10

Lyndon Quon  
B.A., Ecology  
Years of Experience: 7

Jack White  
M.A., Geography  
Years of Experience: 25

John Messina  
M.S., Ecology  
Years of Experience: 6

Karen Sievert  
B.A., Geography  
Years of Experience: 20

Angela Johnson  
B.A., Graphic Design  
Years of Experience: 6

Jerry McLees, AICP  
M.P.A., Public Administration  
Years of Experience: 30

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**CHAPTER 8.0**  
**DISTRIBUTION LIST**

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ADVISORY COUNCIL ON  
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WESTERN OFFICE OF PROJECT REVIEW  
755 PARFET STREET SUITE 494  
LAKEWOOD CO 880215-5506

AMERICAN RIVERS  
801 PENNSYLVANIA AVENUE SE SUITE 400  
WASHINGTON DC 20003

BONSALL PLANNING GROUP  
ATTN ELIZABETH NORTON  
5967 REDONDO DRIVE  
BONSALL CA 92003

BUENA VISTA AUDUBON SOCIETY  
ATTN MS KAREN MESSER  
CONSERVATION CHAIR  
P O BOX 480  
OCEANSIDE CA 92049

CALIFORNIA AIR RESOURCES CONTROL  
BOARD  
EIR REGIONAL IMPACT DIVISION  
P O BOX 2815  
SACRAMENTO CA 95812

CALIFORNIA COSTAL COMMISSION  
45 FREMONT STREET SUITE 2000  
SAN FRANCISCO CA 94105-2219

CALIFORNIA DEPARTMENT OF  
TRANSPORTATION  
P O BOX 942874  
SACRAMENTO CA 94274-0001

CALIFORNIA DEPARTMENT OF  
FISH AND GAME  
ATTN MR RANDY BOTTA  
330 GOLDEN SHORES SUITE 50  
LONG BEACH CA 90802

CALIFORNIA DEPARTMENT OF  
PARKS AND RECREATION  
STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICE  
P O BOX 942896  
SACRAMENTO CA 95811-0001

CALIFORNIA ENVIRONMENTAL LAW  
PROJECT  
ATTN MS KELLY DRUM PROJECT  
ATTORNEY  
1168 DELORES STREET  
SAN FRANCISCO CA 94133

CALIFORNIA INDIAN LEGAL SERVICES  
ATTN SUSAN FRANK  
120 WEST GRAND AVENUE SUITE 204  
ESCONDIDO CA 92025

CALIFORNIA NATIVE PLANT SOCIETY  
SAN DIEGO NATURAL HISTORY MUSEUM  
P O BOX 1390  
SAN DIEGO CA 92112

CALIFORNIA REGIONAL WATER QUALITY  
CONTROL BOARD SAN DIEGO REGION  
ATTN GREIG PETERS  
9771 CLAIREMONT MESA BLVD SUITE  
SAN DIEGO CA 92124

CALIFORNIA STATE COASTAL  
CONSERVANCY  
ATTN MELANIE DENNIGER  
1330 BROADWAY SUITE 1100  
OAKLAND CA 94612

CALIFORNIA WATER RESOURCES CONTROL  
BOARD  
DIVISION OF WATER QUALITY  
P O BOX 944213  
SACRAMENTO CA 94244-2130

CALTRANS DISTRICT 11  
P O BOX 85406  
SAN DIEGO CA 92138-9072

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OCEANSIDE CA 92054

COLORADO STATE UNIVERSITY  
THE LIBRARIES  
ATTN MR FRED SCHMIDT HEAD  
DOCUMENTS DEPARTMENT  
FORT COLLINS CO 80523-1019

DEFENSE TECHNICAL INFORMATION  
CENTER  
OTIC (DTIC-BLS)  
8725 JOHN J KINGMAN ROAD SUITE 944  
FT BELVOIR VA 2060-6218

DEPARTMENT OF COMMUNITY AND  
CULTURAL SERVICES SAN BERNARDINO  
COUNTY MUSEUM  
ATTN ROBERT REYNOLDS  
2024 ORANGE TREE LANE  
REDLANDS CA 92374

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
OFFICE OF ENVIRONMENTAL AFFAIRS  
ATTN MR TERRY MARTIN  
1849 C STREET NW ROOM 2340  
WASHINGTON DC 20240

ENDANGERED HABITAT LEAGUE  
ATTN MR DAN SILVER  
CONSERVATION COORDINATOR  
8424-A SANTA MONICA BOULEVARD  
SUITE 593  
LOS ANGELES CA 90069-4210

ENVIRONMENTAL DEFENSE FUND  
ATTN MS KAREN FLORINI  
ENVIRONMENTAL REVIEW COORDINATOR  
1875 CONNECTICUT AVENUE NW  
WASHINGTON DC 20009

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915 CAPITOL MALL ROOM 364  
SACRAMENTO CA 95814

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P O BOX 43  
PALA CA 92059

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ATTN BENJAMIN MAGANTE CHAIRPERSON  
P O BOX 86  
PAUMA VALLEY CA 92061

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ATTN MR BOB LEMONS  
DIRECTOR OF ENGINEERING  
P O BOX 9017  
TEMECULA CA 92589-9017

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DEPARTMENT OF PLANNING AND LAND USE  
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5201 RUFFIN ROAD SUITE B  
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P O BOX 631  
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P O BOX 23130  
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ATTN MR JOHN GEDDIE  
8040 BELLAMAH COURT NE  
ALBUQUERQUE NM 87110

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ATTN MR AL ALFEROS  
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P O BOX 7745  
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ATTN MR BILL LEHEY  
27393 YNEZ ROAD  
TEMECULA CA 92591

TNC  
ATTN ROBIN WELLS  
13700 MONTE VISTA  
LAKE ELSINORE CA 92530

TRANSPORTATION CORRIDOR AGENCIES  
ATTN STEVE LETTERLY  
P O BOX 28870  
SANTA ANA CA 92799-8870

U S ARMY CERL  
ATTN SUE BEVELHEIMER (CECER-UL-T)  
P O BOX 9005  
CHAMPAIGN IL 61826-9005

U S ARMY CORPS OF ENGINEERS  
REGULATORY BRANCH  
ATTN ERIC STEIN  
911 WILSHIRE BOULEVARD 11TH FLOOR  
LOS ANGELES CA 90017

U S DEPARTMENT OF INTERIOR  
FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICES  
ECOLOGICAL SERVICES  
3310 EL CAMINO AVENUE SUITE 130  
SACRAMENTO CA 95821-6340

U S DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
OFFICE OF ENVIRONMENTAL POLICY AND  
COMPLIANCE  
600 HAMILTON STREET SUITE 515  
SAN FRANCISCO CA 94107-1376

U S ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION  
AGENCY- REGION 9 ENVIRONMENTAL  
REVIEW SECTION  
ATTN MARY BUTTERWICK  
75 HAWTHORN STREET  
SAN FRANCISCO CA 94105

U S ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION  
AGENCY- REGION 9 ENVIRONMENTAL  
REVIEW SECTION  
ATTN DAVID FARRELL  
75 HAWTHORN STREET  
SAN FRANCISCO CA 94105

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SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA FIELD STATION  
ATTN DOREEN STADFLANDER  
2730 LOKER AVENUE WEST  
CARLSBAD CA 92008

UNION FOR RIVER GREENBELT  
ENVIRONMENT  
ATTN MR RAY JOHNSON CONSERVATION  
COORDINATOR  
24508 LINCOLN AVENUE  
MURRIETA CA 92562

WATER RESOURCES CENTER ARCHIVES  
ATTN CATHY DIEDEN  
410 O'BRIEN HALL  
UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA  
BERKELEY CA 94720-1718

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**CHAPTER 9.0**  
**REFERENCES AND INDIVIDUALS**  
**AND AGENCIES CONSULTED**

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**9.0 REFERENCES, INDIVIDUALS AND AGENCIES CONSULTED**

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**CHAPTER 10.0**  
**LIST OF ACRONYMS AND ABBREVIATIONS**

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**10.0 LIST OF ACRONYMS AND ABBREVIATIONS**

AAM	Annual Arithmetic Mean
AC/S ES	Assistant Chief of Staff, Environmental Security
AGM	Annual Geometric Mean
APCD	Air Pollution Control District
AWT	Advanced Water Treatment
BA	Biological Assessment
Basin Plan	Water Quality Control Plan for the San Diego Basin
BAT	Best Available Technology
BMP	Best Management Practices
BO	Biological Opinion
BOD	Biochemical Oxygen Demand
BRAC	Base Realignment and Closure
CDFG	California Department of Fish and Game
CEQ	Council on Environmental Quality
CEQA	California Environmental Quality Act
CNDDB	California Natural Diversity Data Base
CNEL	Community Noise Equivalent Level
CNPS	California Native Plant Society
CO	Carbon Monoxide
CZMA	Coastal Zone Management Act
dB	Decibel
dBA or dB(A)	A-weighted decibels
DHS	State of California Department of Health Services
DNL or L <sub>dn</sub>	Day-Night level
DO	dissolved oxygen
EIS	Environmental Impact Statement
ESA	Endangered Species Act

FEIS/R	Final Environmental Impact Statement/Environmental Impact Report
ft	Feet/foot
GIS	Geographic Information System
GPS	Global Positioning System
HA	Ysidora Hydrologic Area
HSA	Lower Ysidora Hydrologic Subarea
I-15	Interstate 15
I-5	Interstate 5
L <sub>eq</sub>	Equivalent noise level
lbs/day	Pounds per day
MCB	Marine Corps Base
MCO	Marine Corps Order
MCON	Military construction
MCTSSA	Marine Corps Tactical Systems Support Activity
MG	Million gallons
mg/L	Milligrams per liter
MGD	million gallons per day
MPN	Most probable number
N/A	Not available
NAAQS	National Ambient Air Quality Standards
NAGPRA	Native American Graves Protection and Repatriation Act
National Register	National Register of Historic Places
NEPA	National Environmental Policy Act
NHPA	National Historic Preservation Act
NH <sub>4</sub>	ammonia
NOI	Notice of Intent
NO <sub>2</sub>	Nitrogen Dioxide
NO <sub>3</sub>	Nitrate
NO <sub>x</sub>	Oxides of Nitrogen



NPDES	National Pollution Discharge Elimination System
NTU	Natural Turbidity Units
O <sub>3</sub>	Ozone
OSHA	U.S. Occupational Safety and Health Administration
P	Phosphorus
PM <sub>2.5</sub>	Fine particulate matter equal to or less than 2.5 microns in diameter
PM <sub>10</sub>	Particulate matter equal to or less than 10 microns in diameter
PO <sub>4</sub>	Phosphate
ppm	Parts per million
RHGA	Repeatable high ground acceleration
ROD	Record of Decision
ROI	Region of Influence
RONA	Record of Non-Applicability
RWQCB	San Diego Regional Water Quality Control Board
SAR	Sodium Adsorption Ratio
SCAQMD	South Coast Air Quality Management District
SCS	Soil Conservation Service
SDAB	San Diego Air Basin
SDG&E	San Diego Gas and Electric Company
SEIR	Supplemental Environmental Impact Report
SEIS	Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement
SHPO	California State Historic Preservation Office
SIP	State Implementation Plan
SO <sub>2</sub>	Sulfur dioxide
SR	State Route
STP	Sewage Treatment Plant
SWDIV	Southwest Division, Naval Facilities Engineering Command
SWRCB	California State Water Resources Water Control Board

TDS	Total Dissolved Solids
TKN	Kjeldahl nitrogen
TP	total phosphorous
TUa	Acute Toxicity Units
TUc	Chronic Toxicity Units
USACOE	U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
USDA	U.S. Department of Agriculture
USEPA	United States Environmental Protection Agency
USFWS	U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
$\mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$	Micrograms per cubic meter
VOC	Volatile Organic Compounds

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## APPENDICES

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**APPENDIX A**

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**NOTICE OF INTENT AND COMMENTS**

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DEPARTMENT OF THE NAVY  
SOUTHWEST DIVISION  
NAVAL FACILITIES ENGINEERING COMMAND  
1220 PACIFIC HIGHWAY  
SAN DIEGO, CA 92132-5190

11000  
Ser 533.VT/093  
11 Feb 1998

Ladies and Gentlemen:

The enclosed Notice of Intent (NOI) to prepare a Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) for the Military Construction Project P-527B, Sewage Effluent Compliance, Lower Santa Margarita Basin, Marine Corps Base Camp Pendleton, California is provided for your information.

The NOI appeared in the Federal Register on February 4, 1998 with the public comment period ending on March 23, 1998.

For further information regarding this matter, please contact Ms. Vicky Taylor of this command, at (619) 532-3007. Please provide your comments regarding the scope of analysis of the Supplemental EIS or any issues of concern you would like addressed in the Supplemental EIS in writing to Ms. Taylor by March 23, 1998 at the following address:

Southwest Division, Naval Facilities Engineering Command  
1220 Pacific Hwy  
Attn: Ms. Vicky Taylor (Code 533.VT)  
San Diego, CA 92132-5190  
Fax: (619) 532-3789/3035

Sincerely,

VICKY K. TAYLOR  
By direction of  
the Commanding Officer

Encl:  
(1) NOI(1 copy)

Copy to: (w/encl)  
Commanding General, Marine Corps Base, Camp Pendleton, Assistant Chief of Staff,  
Facilities, Attn: Mr. Ted Thomas, P. O. Box 555013, Camp Pendleton, CA 92055-5013  
Commanding General, Marine Corps Base, Camp Pendleton, Assistant Chief of Staff,  
Environmental Security, Attn: Dr. Richard Kramer, BLDG 22165, P.O. Box 555008,  
Camp Pendleton, CA 92055-5008

**DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE**  
**Department of the Navy**

**Notice of Intent to Prepare a Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement for Milcon Project P-527B, Sewage Effluent Compliance, at Marine Corps Base Camp Pendleton, California.**

Pursuant to section 102(2)(C) of the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) of 1969 as implemented by the Council on Environmental Quality Regulations (40 CFR parts 1500-1508), the U.S. Marine Corps announces its intent to prepare a Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) to evaluate the environmental effects of proposed alternative methods of sewage effluent disposal, in order to achieve compliance with a San Diego Regional Water Quality Control Board (RWQCB) Cease and Desist Order at Marine Corps Base (MCB), Camp Pendleton. The Sewage Effluent Compliance Project, Lower Santa Margarita Basin Environmental Impact Statement/Report (EIS/R), which this report will supplement, addressed a system of pumps and piping to deliver effluent from Sewage Treatment Plants 1, 2, 3, 8, and 13 to percolation ponds and an existing ocean outfall for discharge. Each of the three alternatives evaluated included an element of effluent or brine discharge through the ocean outfall. During final consideration of the proposed action, the City of Oceanside City Council disapproved use of its ocean outfall, thus requiring evaluation of further alternatives.

MCB Camp Pendleton is proceeding with on-base construction of the effluent collection and percolation pond elements of the disposal system described in the Final EIS/R and Record of Decision. This Supplemental EIS will analyze four alternatives to provide additional and sufficient disposal capacity, without the use of an ocean outfall, to achieve compliance with the San Diego RWQCB Cease and Desist Order.

The four alternatives include: Alternative 1, land disposal – percolation of all effluent; Alternative 2, land and live stream disposal – percolation with seasonal discharge; Alternative 3, land and live stream disposal – percolation, advanced treatment and live stream discharge; and Alternative 4, land disposal – percolation, advanced treatment and reclamation. All alternatives will require the construction of percolation ponds at up to three locations; Lemon Grove, I-5/Railroad site, and the Boat Basin site. Under Alternative 1, the effluent would be conveyed through underground piping between the three sites. Most of this piping would be installed in existing roadways.

Under Alternative 2, berm height and depth at Lemon Grove will be increased, and an effluent storage pond will be constructed at Stuart Mesa. These structures will accommodate effluent storage when effluent input to the percolation ponds exceeds the percolation rate, and live stream disposal is not feasible. The effluent will be discharged from the Lemon Grove and Stuart Mesa storage

ponds to the Santa Margarita River when the volume of river flow provides sufficient dilution of the effluent. The proposed discharge point will be north of the Lemon Grove ponds.

Alternative 3 will process effluent, that is in excess of the percolation rate, to remove nitrogen, phosphorous and other constituents, and will be discharged to the Santa Margarita River at the same point identified in Alternative 2. Construction of an advanced water treatment (AWT) facilities adjacent to Sewage Treatment Plant (STP) 13 and some effluent storage capacity will be required. Although the AWT would improve the quality of the effluent, it is not anticipated that the current Basin Plan objectives for total dissolved solids (TDS) would be achieved, and modification to the Basin Plan would be required.

Alternative 4 will be similar to Alternative 3, except the AWT effluent will be conveyed to a point near the existing irrigation system and used for irrigation of on-base, leased agricultural lands northwest of the Lemon Grove ponds, on the east and west sides of I-5.

In addition, an alternative for a more limited expansion of the Lemon Grove Ponds will be considered in the Supplemental EIS. This alternative would limit the size of the Lemon Grove pond expansion to avoid the removal of approximately 300 eucalyptus trees. This alternative may be combined with any of Alternatives 1-4.

A supplement to the previously issued EIR is not required since the revised proposed action does not require local approvals or California Environmental Quality Act certification.

The scope of the analyses and issues of concern for this Supplemental EIS are anticipated to be very similar to those addressed in the Final EIS/R. The major issues are expected to be hydrology and water quality, biological resources, and cultural resources. Other issues to be addressed include geology and soils, air quality, land use, transportation and circulation, noise, visual resources, safety and environmental health, utilities, socioeconomics, and environmental justice.

This notice has been mailed to all parties who commented on the Sewage Effluent Compliance Project, Lower Santa Margarita Basin Environmental Impact Statement/Report (EIS/R), and other interested parties. This Notice has also been published in local newspapers. The Marine Corps invites agencies, organizations, and the general public to provide written comments relative to the proposed project and the issues to be addressed in the Supplemental EIS. Scoping comments should clearly describe specific issues or topics which the commentor believes the Supplemental EIS should address.

Written statements or questions regarding the scoping process should be received no later than March 23, 1998, and should be sent to:

Southwest Division, Naval Facilities Engineering Command

1220 Pacific Highway

San Diego, CA 92132-5190

Attn: Ms. Vicky Taylor, Code 533.VT

Phone (619) 532-3007

**Dated:** January 30, 1998

L.L. Larson, Colonel, USMC

Acting Head, Land Use and Military Construction Branch

Facilities and Services Division

Installations and Logistics Department

By direction of the Commandant of the Marine Corps





UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY  
REGION IX  
75 Hawthorne Street  
San Francisco, CA 94105

February 27, 1998

Southwest Division, Naval Facilities Engineering Command  
1220 Pacific Highway  
San Diego, CA 92132-5190  
Attn: Ms. Vicky Taylor, Code 533.VT

Dear Ms. Taylor:

The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) has reviewed the Notice of Intent (NOI) to prepare a supplemental Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) for **Milcon Project P-527B, Sewage Effluent Compliance, at Marine Corps Base Camp Pendleton, California**. Our review is pursuant to the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA), Council on Environmental Quality (CEQ) regulations (40 CFR Parts 1500-1508), and Section 309 of the Clean Air Act (CAA). The EPA commented on the draft (February 1997) and final EIS (August 1997) that preceded this notice.

The supplemental EIS will evaluate the environmental effects of alternative methods of sewage effluent disposal to those described in the draft and final EIS (FEIS). The proposed alternatives in the FEIS described effects of effluent or brine discharge through an ocean outfall, however, the City of Oceanside did not approve the use of its ocean outfall during final consideration of the proposed action. The supplemental EIS would evaluate four management alternatives for effluent disposal that include: land disposal (percolation of all effluent), land and live stream disposal (percolation with seasonal discharge), land and live stream disposal with advanced treatment of live stream discharge, and land disposal with advanced treatment and reclamation of water for use in irrigation. Each alternative would require percolation pond construction at up to three locations.

The Marine Corps should consider withdrawing its April 1997 FEIS and reinitiating the EIS process with the NOI's four alternatives. A supplemental EIS would be appropriate if the Marine Corps were to make a substantial change in a proposed action that is relevant to environmental concerns, or if there are significant new circumstances or information relevant to environmental concerns and bearing on the proposed action or its impacts (40 CFR Parts 1500-1508, Section 1502.9(c)). However, the methods by which the Marine Corps proposes to achieve sewage effluent compliance in the NOI (i.e., percolation ponds, live stream and irrigation discharges) are fundamentally altered from the FEIS (i.e., primarily ocean outfall), and appear to be more than a "substantial change in a proposed action." EPA is concerned that the alternatives described in the NOI are sufficiently different that comparisons of the proposed supplemental document to the FEIS would be confusing to the decisionmaker and the public.

The Marine Corps identifies several key environmental issues that warrant careful consideration in the supplemental EIS. We concur with the Marine Corps' approach in emphasizing hydrology, water quality, biological resources, and cultural resources. The additional analyses concerning geology and soils, air quality, land use, environmental justice, safety and environmental health, utilities, and others should also receive careful consideration.

EPA recommends that the EIS discuss the extent to which water quality and sensitive or unique habitats, if any, can be protected and improved through the project's implementation or its mitigations. Also, EPA is pleased to note that the alternatives described in the NOI reflect more optimal use of the area's valuable water resources that was reflected in the FEIS.

We appreciate the opportunity to review this NOI. Additional comments are enclosed. Please send two copies of the EIS to this office at the same time it is officially filed with our Washington D.C. Office. If you have any questions, please call me at (415) 744-1584, or Rosalyn Johnson of my staff at (415) 744-1574.

Sincerely,



David J. Farrel, Chief  
Federal Activities Office

Attachment  
2801supp.noi

## **COMMENTS**

### **NEPA**

1. EPA recommends that a new draft EIS be issued that provides clear descriptions of the basic project purpose and need, project alternatives, potential impacts to the environment, and mitigation for these impacts. The analysis should comparatively evaluate environmental impacts of the four alternatives, defining the issues and providing a clear basis for choice among options for the decisionmaker and the public (40 CFR 1502.14).
2. NEPA requires evaluation of reasonable alternatives not within the jurisdiction of the lead agency (40 CFR Section 1502.14(c)). Furthermore, there should be a clear discussion of the reasons for the elimination of alternatives which were not evaluated in detail.
3. The EIS should analyze potential cumulative effects in the Region of Influence (ROI). According to 40 CFR 1508.7, "(c)umulative impacts can result from individually minor but collectively significant actions taking place over a period of time." The cumulative impacts analysis should include "the incremental impact of the action when added to other past, present and reasonably foreseeable future actions." A description of all planned, pending and approved projects in the ROI should be presented along with a map illustrating the locations of those projects. The effects of the proposed action should be added to the expected development effects in the region to determine the total cumulative impact of the projects.
4. The Marine Corps is required by 40 CFR 1502.14(e) and 1505.2(b) to identify a Preferred Alternative and an Environmentally Preferable Alternative that may or may not be the same. EPA strongly encourages the Navy to focus on developing a preferred alternative that best balances the needs of the project and environmental quality.
5. Nearby residential areas should be documented and described in the EIS. The potential for effects on local residential communities should be discussed in the EIS in keeping with Executive Order 12898, Federal Actions to Address Environmental Justice in Minority Populations and Low Income Populations. See **Environmental Justice**.

### **Water Quality**

1. The EIS should discuss the potential impacts from groundwater recharge to the aquifers in the Lower Santa Margarita Basin from the proposed percolation ponds.
2. The EIS should ensure that the proposed action and alternative actions would satisfy the Cease and Desist Order (#94-52) and the National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) Permit or any related orders or permits issued to the Marine Corps by the San Diego Regional Water Quality Control Board.

3. The EIS should evaluate the potential of the proposed project to cause adverse aquatic impacts such as increased siltation and turbidity in surface water sources; changes in water quality and quantity; changes in dissolved oxygen, and temperature; and habitat deterioration.
4. The EIS should discuss specific monitoring programs that are in place or will be implemented to determine potential impacts on surface and drinking water quality and beneficial uses. Evaluate whether maintenance and protection of water quality can be guaranteed.

#### **Section 404 Comments**

The EIS should identify impacts to water, floodplains, and wetlands, including identification of Section 404 Clean Water Act requirements and proposals to ensure compliance with these requirements. EPA will review the proposed action for compliance with the Federal Guidelines for Specification of Disposal Sites for Dredged or Fill Materials (40 CFR 230) [hereafter referred to as the Guidelines], promulgated pursuant to Section 404(b)(1) of the Clean Water Act (CWA). To comply with the Guidelines, the proposed action must meet all of the following criteria:

- There is no practicable alternative to the proposed discharge which would have less adverse impact on the aquatic ecosystem (40 CFR 230.10(a)).
- The proposed action does not violate State water quality standards, toxic effluent standards, or jeopardize the continued existence of federally listed species or their critical habitat (40 CFR 230.10(b)).
- The proposed action will not cause or contribute to significant degradation of waters of the United States, including wetlands (40 CFR 230.10(c)). Significant degradation includes loss of fish and wildlife habitat, including cumulative losses.
- All appropriate and practicable steps are taken to minimize adverse impacts on the aquatic ecosystem (i.e., mitigation) (40 CFR 230.10(d)). This includes incorporation of all appropriate and practicable compensation measures for unavoidable losses to waters of the United States, including wetlands. The EIS should fully address the feasibility of "in-kind" habitat mitigation measures.

#### **Wetlands**

In keeping with our 2/3/97 DEIS comment letter (see #13), EPA recommends that one or more of the alternatives examine the feasibility of developing demonstration projects with constructed wetlands.

### **Air Quality**

The EIS should provide a discussion of air quality standards, ambient air quality conditions, and potential air quality impacts of the proposed project, including cumulative and indirect impacts. Federal agencies are required by the Clean Air Act to assure that actions conform to an approved air quality implementation plan. General Conformity Regulations can be found in 40 CFR Parts 51 and 93 (58 Federal Register, page 63214, November 30, 1993). These regulations should be examined for applicability to the proposed action.

### **Environmental Justice**

In keeping with Executive Order 12898, **Federal Actions to Address Environmental Justice in Minority Populations and Low-Income Populations** (EO 12898), the EIS should describe the measures taken by the Marine Corps to fully analyze the environmental effects of the proposed Federal action on minority communities, e.g. Indian Tribes, and low-income populations, and to present opportunities for affected communities to provide input into the NEPA process. The intent and requirements of EO 12898 are clearly illustrated in the President's February 11, 1994 Memorandum for the Heads of all Departments and Agencies.

### **General**

If references to previous documents are used, the EIS should provide a summary of critical issues, assumptions, and decisions complete enough to stand alone without depending upon continued referencing of the other documents.



UNITED STATES MARINE CORPS  
MARINE CORPS BASE  
BOX 555010  
CAMP PENDLETON CALIFORNIA 92055-5010

IN REPLY REFER TO:  
5090.5C  
ENVSEC/01  
17 Mar 98

Mr. David J. Farrel, Chief  
Federal Activities Office  
U. S. Environmental Protection Agency, Region IX  
75 Hawthorne Street  
San Francisco, CA 94105

Dear Mr. Farrel:

This responds to your letter of February 27, 1998 regarding the Department of the Navy's Notice of Intent (NOI) to prepare a supplemental Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) for MILCON Project P-527B, Sewage Effluent Compliance, at Marine Corps Base, Camp Pendleton, California. We have reviewed and given careful consideration to the comments in your letter.

We do not believe that, under the applicable Council on Environmental Quality (CEQ) regulations (40 CFR 1500, *et al.*) implementing the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA), withdrawal of our April 1997 Final EIS for this project is necessary as the proposed SEIS will "reinitiate" the EIS process. We believe the significance of the changes and the current circumstances relating to the project, as explained in the February 4, 1998 Federal Register NOI to prepare a SEIS, warrant a supplemental EIS. Section 1502.9(c)(1) of the CEQ regulations directs that agencies prepare a SEIS if the agency "(i)... makes substantial changes to the proposed action... or (ii) There are significant new circumstances or information relevant to environmental concerns and bearing on the proposed action or its impacts." This is the circumstance that we face as a result of the late and unexpected decision by the City of Oceanside to deny Camp Pendleton access to its ocean outfall for disposal of excess effluent. As reflected in the April 1997 FEIS and the August 26, 1997 Record of Decision (ROD), previous indications were that such access would be available.

The major portion of this project will not change as a result of the denial of the use of the ocean outfall. As provided for in the FEIS, as much effluent as possible will be collected in percolation ponds in the Lemon Grove area. The FEIS anticipated that the excess volume of effluent that could not be percolated in these ponds, especially in the wet weather months, would have gone to the ocean outfall. This disposition of the excess effluent is the *only* changed part of the project that will be analyzed in the proposed SEIS. Consequently, the portions of the project providing for the piping of effluent from other sewage treatment plants to the previously planned percolation ponds in the Lemon Grove area do not require further analysis and decision based upon the FEIS and their approval in the ROD.

The SEIS will thoroughly evaluate other reasonable alternatives for the project now that the previously anticipated access to the ocean outfall is no longer available. We anticipate that the disposal of most, if not all, of the sewage effluent may be able to be accomplished through land disposal by increasing the size and capacity of the percolation ponds previously planned for in the FEIS. Additional testing is currently underway to determine the percolation capacities of the original, adjacent, and other potential sites for these ponds. If this testing indicates that the percolation rates of the original and adjacent sites will not accommodate the volume of effluent, the other potential percolation locations will be considered. Although percolation now appears to be the preferred alternative, other reasonable alternatives, as reflected in the NOI, as well as combinations of these alternatives, will also be evaluated to determine a viable means of disposal of all of the effluent. Alternatives that may be raised during the scoping process, agency consultations, and the comment period will also be considered.

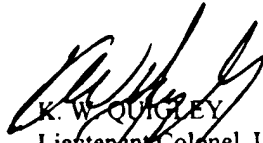
We appreciate your concern that the proposed alternatives identified in the NOI are sufficiently different than those originally proposed in the FEIS so that a SEIS "... would be confusing to the decision maker and the public." We believe, however, that the SEIS can be developed in such a fashion that both the decision maker and the public will fully understand the project, its environmental ramifications, and the measures proposed to avoid or reduce those

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17 Mar 98

impacts. Further, this approach is in line with the CEQ regulation (1502.22) encouraging incorporation by reference when possible to "cut down on bulk without impeding agency and public review of the action."

We thank you for your comments relating to the project and especially for those concerning matters and issues that must be addressed in the NEPA analysis of these new proposed alternatives. We look forward to working with the Region IX EPA staff as we develop the additional NEPA documentation for this project so that an environmentally informed decision may be properly made.

Sincerely,



K. W. QUIGLEY  
Lieutenant Colonel, U.S. Marine Corps  
Deputy Chief of Staff, Environmental Security

Copy to:  
WACO  
Cmdr EFD SW (Ms. Taylor)



# United States Department of the Interior

## FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE

Ecological Services  
Carlsbad Field Office  
2730 Loker Avenue West  
Carlsbad, California 92008

MAR 20 1998

Vicky K. Taylor  
Code 533.VT  
Southwest Division  
Naval Facilities Engineering Command  
1220 Pacific Highway  
San Diego, California 92132-5190

Re: Notice of Intent to Prepare a Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement for the Military Construction Project P527B, Sewage Effluent Compliance, Lower Santa Margarita River Basin, Marine Corps Base Camp Pendleton, San Diego County, California

Dear Ms. Taylor:

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (Service) has reviewed the referenced Notice of Intent (NOI) dated February 4, 1998, regarding preparation of a supplemental Environmental Impact Statement for the Sewage Effluent Compliance Lower Santa Margarita River Basin Project (EIS). As stated in the NOI, Marine Corps Base Camp Pendleton has proceeded with on-base construction of the effluent collection and percolation pond elements of the disposal system described in the Final Environmental Impact Statement (FEIS). The supplemental EIS will analyze alternatives to provide additional and sufficient disposal capacity in light of the City of Oceanside's disapproval of the use of an ocean outfall within that community. The ocean outfall was a component of the original project design.

The purpose of the proposed action is to comply with Cease and Desist Orders issued by the San Diego Regional Water Quality Control Board. The proposed action as described in the FEIS would replace live-stream effluent discharge from existing Sewage Treatment Plants (STP) 1,2,3,8, and 13 with ocean discharge. Implementation of the proposed action would result in the removal of 3.5 to 4.4 million gallons per day of secondary treated effluent from the Santa Margarita River. The project would require the construction, installation, and operation of a system of pumps, pipelines, and associated facilities.

The Service believes that the proposed project may have the potential for significant environmental impacts to biological resources. As stated in the "Programmatic Groundwater/Riparian Habitat Assessment at MCB Camp Pendleton" (MCB Camp Pendleton Environmental Security Office 1995) (Groundwater Assessment) the elimination of sewage effluent generated by STP 3 could lower groundwater levels by five feet or more during extended drought conditions. The Groundwater Assessment concluded that an



approximate 80 acre area in the Chappo and Ysidora Subbasins were likely to be affected by the removal of the effluent discharge. The Service is concerned that the reduction in flows will lower ground water levels which may result in the degradation and/or loss of downstream wetland habitats especially during extended periods of drought. The Santa Margarita River supports a mosaic of vegetation communities associated with riverine systems including southern willow riparian forest, southern willow scrub, and freshwater marsh. These vegetation communities provide habitat for federally listed species, and over 90 species of migratory birds.

As stated in our comment letter, dated February 7, 1997, in response to the draft EIS, the Service is concerned with the indirect effects to downstream riparian habitat within the Santa Margarita River as a result of relocating the current effluent discharge point. We are also concerned that alternatives in the supplemental EIS may be constrained due to the fact that construction has already begun on the pipeline and Lemon Grove percolation pond. We recommend that a full range of alternatives be analyzed in the supplemental EIS rather than restricting the analysis to alternatives for the ocean outfall component of the project. We also recommend that the supplemental EIS address tertiary treatment of the effluent and the use of this water to recharge the upstream groundwater basin. The supplemental EIS should consider use of tertiary treated water to facilitate wetland establishment at the Ysidora Basin mitigation site.

In addition to the above concerns, the Service offers the following specific information and recommendations to assist you in planning for the preservation of sensitive wildlife species and habitat within the project area and as a means to assist you in complying with pertinent Federal statutes. In order to facilitate the evaluation of the proposed project from the standpoint of fish and wildlife protection, we request that the supplemental EIS contain the following specific information:

- 1) A complete discussion of the purpose and need for the project.
- 2) A complete description of the proposed project, including all practicable alternatives that have been considered to reduce project impacts to threatened and endangered species, wetland areas, coastal sage scrub, other sensitive habitat types, and fish and wildlife resources.
- 3) Specific acreage and descriptions of the types of wetland, coastal sage scrub, and other sensitive habitats that will or may be directly or indirectly affected by the proposed project or project alternatives. An analysis of potential impacts to estuarine plant communities from the use of freshwater percolation ponds at the Lemon Grove site should be addressed.
- 4) Descriptions of the biological resources associated with each habitat type. These descriptions should include both qualitative and quantitative assessments of the resources present on the proposed project site and alternative sites.

5) An assessment of direct, indirect, and cumulative project impacts to fish and wildlife and associated habitats. This would include the direct project footprint as well as impacts to upstream and downstream habitat. All facets of the project should be included in this assessment.

6) A list of Federal proposed or listed species and critical habitat, state-listed species, and locally sensitive species that are on or near the Santa Margarita River project site including the estuary. A detailed discussion of these species, including information pertaining to their local status and distribution, should be included in this report. The anticipated or real impacts of the project on these species should be addressed fully. The Service is particularly interested in any and all pertinent information and data pertaining to potential or real impacts to: a) currently Federally listed and proposed species, and critical habitat, if designated, including the arroyo toad (*Bufo microscaphus californicus*), tide water goby (*Eucyclobius newberryi*), Quino checkerspot butterfly (*Euphydryas editha quino*), coastal California gnatcatcher (*Polioptila californica californica*), the least Bell's Vireo (*Vireo bellii pusillus*), southwestern willow flycatcher (*Empidonax trailii extimus*), California least tern (*Sterna antillarum browni*), western snowy plover (*Charadrius alexandrinus nivosus*), pacific pocket mouse (*Perognathus longimembris pacificus*), Stephens' kangaroo rat (*Dipodomys stephensi*), and thread-leaved brodiaea (*Brodiaea filifolia*); b) State listed Species including the Belding's savannah sparrow (*Passerculus sandwichensis beldingi*); c) raptors; d) neotropical migratory birds; e) monarch butterfly wintering areas; and f) species considered sensitive by Federal and State authorities.

7) Specific mitigation plans to fully offset project-related impacts, including proposals for mitigating the cumulative impacts of direct and indirect habitat loss, degradation, or modification. Adverse project-related impacts should be mitigated through the preservation, re-creation, or revegetation of impacted habitat types. Mitigation measures that would be specifically implemented for species covered in the Programmatic Biological Opinion (1-6-95-F-02) Programmatic Activities and Conservation Plans in Riparian and Estuarine/Beach Ecosystems on Marine Corps Base Camp Pendleton, should be identified including mathematical calculations associated with formulas specified in the Opinion. The location, implementation schedule, and specifics associated with each mitigative measure should be described.

8) An analysis of the effects of the project on the hydrology of the Santa Margarita River including all wetland communities within the sphere of influence of the project. Of particular importance is an analysis of the potential ground water impacts associated with water diversion out of the Santa Margarita River.

12) A thorough analysis (qualitative and quantitative) of the cumulative impacts to the Santa Margarita River system from projects expected to occur along the Santa Margarita River including the Base Realignment and Closure, Blue Beach Inland Access (North River Road Expansion), Ultimate Clear Zone (project PA303M), Aircraft Parking Apron and Fueling Pits

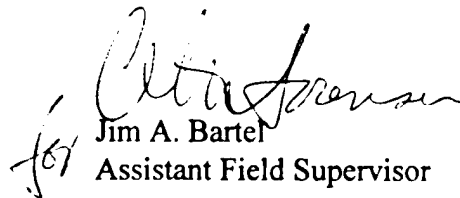
Ms. Vicky K. Taylor

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(project P-026T), New Potable Water Wells in the Santa Margarita Flood Plain, Convert Short Approach Landing System to Airfield Lighting Sequence Flashing System (project PA403R), training and maintenance activities. A discussion of upstream (from Camp Pendleton) activities which effect the Santa Margarita River system should be included in the cumulative impact section.

The Service appreciates the opportunity to comment on the referenced NOI and looks forward to working with representatives of Marine Corps Base Camp Pendleton and Southwestern Division Naval Facilities Engineering Command. If you should have any questions pertaining to these comments or wish to arrange a meeting to discuss the project and anticipated impacts to fish and wildlife resources, please contact Doreen Stadlander of my staff at (760) 431-9440.

Sincerely,

  
for Jim A. Bartel  
Assistant Field Supervisor

# Southwest Center for Biological Diversity



Ms. Vicky Taylor, Code 533.VT  
Southwest Division, Navel Facilities Engineering Command  
1220 Pacific Highway  
San Diego CA 92132-5190

March 23, 1998  
*Delivered via facsimile*  
*Hard copy to follow*

RE: Notice of Intent to prepare a Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement for the Military Construction Project P-527B, Sewage Effluent Compliance, Lower Santa Margarita River Basin, Marine Corps Base Camp Pendleton

Dear Ms. Taylor,

Thank you for the opportunity to offer scoping comments on the above project. We hope you will take the following comments into consideration during production of the draft supplemental EIS.

We support the concept of returning the maximum amount of water possible into the Santa Margarita River, either directly (after biological, not chemical, treatment) and/or via percolation. Return of wastewater, in combination with strict water conservation, is perhaps the best long term solution to maintenance of high quality riparian habitat along the Santa Margarita River.

Every attempt should be made to locate percolation ponds, new advanced water treatment facilities, irrigation infrastructure, etc. outside of areas supporting riparian habitat and or any special status species including but not limited to the southwestern willow flycatcher, least Bell's vireo, arroyo toad, tidewater goby. All ponds and other facilities would ideally be located within the Santa Margarita River flood plain, but outside of riparian habitat areas, so as to provide for maximum ground water recharge. We recommend hydrological studies in an effort to determine the best location of direct discharge and/or percolation ponds for efficient wastewater disposal as well as maximum benefit to regionally significant biological resources.

During consideration of potential effects of any construction, water diversion, or recharge on special status habitats and/or species, please carefully consider indirect and cumulative effects to such resources in addition to those direct effects of any proposed action. A list of other projects considered for the Santa Margarita flood plain and potentially affecting a number of special status species and riparian habitats is contained in the Wetlands Biological Opinion and should be updated and analyzed in greater detail in relation to this project.

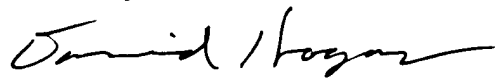
With these comments in mind, we are most supportive of Alternative 3, with limited expansion of the Lemon Grove Ponds so as to avoid impacts to the eucalyptus grove, and with the exception of construction of an advanced water treatment facility adjacent to Sewage Treatment Plant 13. This facility should be located elsewhere where riparian habitat and special status species will not be affected.

Ms. Vicky Taylor  
March 23, 1998

Page 2

This concludes our comments. Please contact me if you have any questions or wish to discuss these comments in greater detail.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "David Hogan". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

David Hogan

## **SANTA MARGARITA RIVER WATER MANAGEMENT PROJECT**

**pob 897 Murrieta CA 92564 909/678-8328**

Dept of the Navy  
1220 Pacific Highway  
San Diego CA 92132

3/21/98

**CITIZENS FOR RESPONSIBLE WATERSHED MANAGEMENT comment to:**  
**2/11/98 Notice of Preparation of a Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement**  
**for Project P-527B, Sewage Effluent compliance.**

The proposed wastewater treatment alternatives do not address *onsite* treatment techniques described as "alternative systems for small communities" by the US Environmental Protection Agency. While it is understood that the high density of Base population seems to dictate centralized sewage disposal in the 'traditional' manner, technicians throughout the Nation have developed a multitude of ways to reduce total effluent production to central systems.

The conventional wisdom that *larger is better* holds true where soils, climate and geology constrain planning but does not apply to this Base where these factors are remarkably favorable for onsite treatment or effluent treatment in remote leach fields. While the description "Small Wastewater Systems" may seem inappropriate for this populous Base, please note that it is composed of several distinct communities and many individual structures in close proximity to soils that are appropriate for safe, inexpensive treatment of septic tank effluent. (Soils maps indicate thousands of acres of porous, well-drained soils adjacent to habited areas.) If USMC planners set aside perceptions of wastewater management as a centralized planning effort, opportunities for immediate, low-cost sewage treatment become visible.

Maximizing wastewater treatment on each site would contribute incrementally to sizing the central systems and replenishing groundwater supplies that provide water to the Base. While this would require re-evaluation of each structure's production of wastewater and a reassessment of soil conditions in its vicinity, most needed information is already available and could quickly be assembled by competent specialists. Various combinations of septic tanks, absorption trenches, pretreatment systems, serial-dosed-pressure-vacuum distribution, filtration, constructed wetlands, evaporation beds and landscape/agricultural irrigation would be suitable for disposing of this effluent depending on each site's conditions.

Some areas where percolation is not appropriate would require conveyance of septic tank or lagoon effluents to remote areas with standard leach fields - contour-following soil absorption trenches - flood-micro-spinkler irrigation systems, tailored to suit soil conditions and desired groundwater levels. The mode of treatment will differ with each site and may entail transport of effluents for considerable distances, dictating a plan too complex for local offices that lack specialists in each of the many disparate methodologies. To be comprehensive and cost-effective the final plan must be integrated into a watershed management plan by the most qualified experts available so that it best balances each component's cost and public benefit. The Project clearly demands highly specialized wholistic water management planning, incorporating current "off-the-shelf" techniques that conform to present State regulations while also applying "innovative" or "experimental" techniques that prevent premature obsolescence as ever-tighter restrictions are imposed.

between alternatives presented to them.) While this may not strike a jarring chord to busy executives who manage complex Base affairs, it is in conflict with good management principles. The availability of first-class, free expertise from public servants Nationwide dictates fullest use of their abilities through careful review of the many "best available alternatives". The views I present here for CRWM are a distillation of advice from its experts and several thousand technicians, civil engineers and planners in private and public service.

USMC could make use of this expertise by inviting State and federal experts to review the entire site within a watershed management setting and provide suggestions for a comprehensive approach to wastewater management. *(I recommend consulting Shroeder and Tchobanoglous of the University of California-Davis, who have written UC CA textbooks on the subject and designed systems for San Diego-Escondido. Schroeder also provided a proposal for a Santa Margarita River watershed planning study in 1989.)*

Several commenters pointed out that the proclaimed intent in this NOP to "dispose" of sewage waters implies a perception that waste-bearing water is a nuisance rather than a valuable resource. They suggested that a term like "usefully dispose of" or "cleanse" or "recycle" be adopted. This may be appropriate to assure potential commenters that USMC planners fully appreciate the value of effluent waters even though past planning efforts have not made fullest use of "latest and best" technologies.

It is understandable that long-range planning excessively burdens Base staffers who see a multiplicity of dangers facing this Nation and wish to maximize preparedness. Those in the chain of command could, however, minimize these burdens by inviting impartial experts to perform a quick review and illustrate every alternative clearly and without unneeded complication. The Base Commander could best render an appropriate decision after reviewing alternatives presented by planners he knew to be competent and not influenced by subcontractors, politicians or his own staff.

CRWM seeks only to enhance this Commander's ability to manage effectively, not to create problems for those who manage his information supply. In our view, the Base Commander needs the best intelligence he can get and this would come most quickly from eminent soil-wastewater management specialists such as those of state and federal agencies.

Finally; USMC planners should not lose sight of their obligation to observe State laws requiring fullest use of Waters of the State. In consideration that treated effluent is suitable for irrigation and groundwater recharge, every opportunity for public benefit from these uses should be examined. These planners should also keep in mind specific instructions of the CA Legislature that State waters be protected from contamination. - Both livestream disposal and percolation of effluent waters through lowland soils violate this directive.

In sum: This NOP did not illustrate the many planning options suitable for consideration by those who wish to provide input. The supplemental report that derives from it should do so.

Every reasonably expectable impact should be addressed in enough detail to allow meaningful comment to the Final Environmental Impact Report. Merely mentioning that rainwater conservation *could* be part of an alternative to the proposed disposal planning would not be adequate. Nothing less than providing estimates of costs and benefits of this (as part of an alternative) from impartial experts would fulfill the intent of the Legislature and Congress.

James Marple  
for Citizens for Responsible Watershed Management

copy EMA/RCD, GBC, RWQCB, CAUS EPA

**The GreenBelt Committee****32750 Rome Hill Road Lake Elsinore CA 92530 maddcreek@cosmoaccess.net**

March 22, 1998

USMC Camp Pendleton

Comments re: SEIS - NOP Sewage Effluent Alternatives

In our examination of the U.S. Marine Corps Notice Of Preparation of a Supplemental Environmental Impact Report we note the statement "*all alternatives will require the construction of percolation ponds...*". We are aware of a broad range of alternative wastewater management systems which do not require percolation ponds and request that these be fully explored. We refer US EPA document 830/F-92/001 of May, 1992. This gives a comprehensive view of the many planning and design techniques applicable to an area such as Camp Pendleton.

After looking far beyond the mounds of trivial and irrelevant information typically provided by local wastewater planning agency offices and private consultants we found a number of community wastewater management systems that would be appropriate for the varied conditions of the Base. We believe these should be fully evaluated before a decision is made regarding the four alternatives identified in this NOP. To this end, we ask that the following observations be given consideration in preparation of a Draft Environmental Impact Report:

--- While the phrase 'alternate systems' may evoke images of radical or impractical methods USMC planners may note that most non-urban homes Nationwide use alternate systems and that this planning predates the centralized systems we see in most urban areas. The greatly reduced complexity of 'alternate systems' should not be taken as an indication that they are less effective or reliable, nor should specious claims of 'economies of scale' sway planners into preferring centralized systems. It is the fact of reduced complexity that makes these systems, as proven at thousands of locations, offer significant savings in planning-engineering-construction-maintenance costs. Unfortunately, these same savings pressure some public servants into rejecting low-tech, low-cost systems that pose a threat to their long-term job security.

--- Senior planners are likely to be offended at a suggestion that they lack sufficient expertise but capable and honest planners know that limited budgets and heavy work loads preclude research that would keep them abreast of 'latest and best' technologies. This field is so vast and moving forward so rapidly that no agency can be fully informed. Individuals who seek to exercise due diligence can compensate for shortcomings within their bureau by finding and evaluating every reasonable alternative to the best of their ability and presenting their findings as widely as practicable. Such research is obligatory for public servants and a specific ethical/legal requisite for every civil engineer.



--- It should be noted here how application of 'latest and best' planning and design techniques is more likely to accelerate than delay construction of systems that bring the Base into compliance with RWQCB regulations. (Knee-Jerk negativists are certain to argue that incorporating individual site systems into a Base plan will cause "red tape" delays. This is a standard tactic used to obstruct the introduction of planning that might threaten their tenure.) In fact, State officials are solely concerned with protecting water quality and minimizing cost concern and so would cooperate fully in a 'piecemeal' approach if they are shown by fully accredited scientists (such as those at State Universities) how the whole of such planning accomplishes desired ends. This cooperation would allow immediate installation of the simplest and most inexpensively constructed elements of such a plan (which elements are likely to be the most cost-effective and quantitatively productive) while more complex and time-consuming studies/design progressed to complete the systems.

--- Protection of surface and groundwater quality is best achieved by dispersal of effluent waters through soils and vegetation that either retain their pollutants in harmless concentrations or modify these pollutants into harmless substances. Decentralized systems can provide this protection by eliminating the need for lagoon or live-stream "disposal" of effluent waters.

--- Careful evaluation of irrigation and trench effluent treatment system benefits to the natural and human environment will reveal that this even has a positive affect on microclimate conditions, increasing annual precipitation and moderating temperature extremes. (see studies H. Rubin, now head of Technion U in Israel)

--- The benefits of stimulating grass and tree growth that crowds out chaparral in critical areas has been recognized by fire suppression experts and should of course be factored into the siting of effluent treatment areas, as these can enhance the restoration of grasslands and forests. Intelligent designed effluent disposal systems can enhance native vegetation in ways that diminish fire hazard while increasing rainwater retention.

--- Flooding on the Base exacerbated by landsliding in the Temecula Gorge of the Santa Margarita River may seem irrelevant to discussions of sewage disposal. It should be noted, however, that a comprehensive watershed management plan to minimize these potentially disastrous events would produce actions that stabilize and increase river flows by raising water tables. This would directly impact both the loading of effluent waters and the volume of dilution waters available for effluent treatment programs, altering the planning equations for these programs.

--- This supplemental statement should address the costs, time frame and benefits of generating a watershed management plan for the entire Santa Margarita River basin as a means to minimize costs and maximize effectiveness/benefits of a sewage effluent cleansing program. Viewing this solely as a "disposal" problem only perpetuates the outdated and inappropriate attitudes that misguide planners into ignoring latest and best planning and design techniques. Piecemeal planning of sewage systems is as contrary to common sense as piecemeal management of rainwater runoff.

--- Rainwater conservation was not adequately addressed in the original Environmental Impact Statement. Without this, the document did not meet CEQA/NEPA requirements. This supplemental report will also fail to comply should it fail to fully explore factors that have significant impact on the cost and success of proposed alternative methods of sewage effluent "disposal". No reasonable person will deny the direct link between water supply quality and sewage effluent treatment methods. No well-informed planner will reject the thesis that effluent waters recycled through low-tech onsite systems that make fullest use of cleansing soils and vegetation can bring great public benefit.

--- Viewing sewage as but one element in a watershed management plan reveals that the alternatives listed do not make full use of fortunate circumstances of location-climate-topography-geology and the resulting composition of soils. While the proposed plans will indeed dispose of effluent in a relatively safe manner and comply with State regulations, planners have an obligation to recognize that **these are outdated and inadequate regulations**, overdue for an updating that will cause further problems in compliance. Applying ordinarily sensible treatment methods that clean sewage waters most effectively and at least cost so that these waters are suitable for re-use is an obviously desirable end.

--- This Notice of Preparation shows that USMC planners have been willing to rectify their failure to include upstream concerned citizens in their original NOP. We hope that this signifies a willingness to fully address planning alternatives that have been proven successful at a multitude of sites across the Nation. Rainwater conservation is not a fad, not a radical notion, not an extremist idea. It has been standard procedure throughout the World's history wherever competent and honest planners served the public. Failure to fully evaluate the potential for minimizing sewage effluent treatment costs and maximizing public benefits from re-use of effluent waters would place USMC planners in apposition to the mainstream of technical expertise. This project should make best possible use of every opportunity for local disposal/treatment of effluent waters. Merely applying archaic methods because of a disinclination to find and evaluate every potential program would be a dereliction of duties to protect public interests and apply public funds to best advantage.

--- Members of the GBC have visited Camp Pendleton on many occasions with a view to providing helpful suggestions that might aid integration of this planning with that of upstream areas. Our concerns are centered on a perception that local officials lack expertise in low-tech wastewater management and have been unable or unwilling to avail themselves of the abundance of information we have seen. We believe that the advice of prominent unbiased experts would be of great benefit to the Commanding General, as a balance to advice of Staff. While this may be seen as a threat to their jobs by some Staff members, the insignificant cost of importing "outside" talent would produce the most acceptable result to those who worry about the economic and environmental costs of maintaining the Base. We consider it essential that the Commanding General is furnished with the best possible intelligence regarding alternatives to overly-centralised sewage disposal systems and live-stream dumping so that he can properly evaluate the public benefits of each.

--- We believe it would be appropriate for USMC planners to contact Professor Edward Shroeder of the University of California, as he provided our group with a "game plan" for water resource management in the Santa Margarita River Basin nearly ten years ago. We have discussed his proposal with dozens of similarly prestigious experts and found them to be both in full agreement with his aims and highly impressed with his ability and impartiality. (We were particularly impressed with his perception that providing public services of the UC toward better conceptual water planning was a routine obligation.)

--- We are aware of a wide variety of inexpensive methods for direct disposal of septic tank effluent and we know that a majority of land on the Base is covered by quite porous soils that are capable of rapid percolation of effluents. We know that land application of effluents is generally the most appropriate method of disposal where soils are well-drained, as on most of the Base. (Planners need to get away from trying to percolate water on valley floors just because it naturally drains to these. The moderate to highly porous soils that predominate offer ample opportunity for low-cost filtering of wastewaters to groundwater.)

--- Our concern for enhancing natural vegetation as a means to provide a wide range of public benefits leads us to request that you fully explore the many direct-disposal techniques available and bring in the most competent and experienced experts you can find in this Nation to aid in developing the programs needed for applying these techniques. Our concern for avoiding contamination of estuarine waters with the many complex chemical compounds found in wastewater cannot be overemphasized, as we have seen far too many cases where wildlife as well as humans were negatively impacted by doses of what were considered harmless chemicals. While the concentration of contaminants in wastewater that flows to live-stream disposal is required to be within strict limits we have seen that unpredicted conditions downstream have caused these chemicals to be concentrated so that they become damaging to the natural environment. Although your budget may allow only rough estimates of the costs of alternatives, these "educated guesses" are an essential part of any environmental impact report. These give concerned citizens a framework within which they can provide the benefit of their talents in research, in consideration of specific methods and in formulation of conceptual alternatives.

We have in hand careful compilations of the costs of retaining rainwater as a means to enhance quantity and quality of water supplies and have viewed similar compilations of the costs of onsite sewage treatment compared to those of centralized systems. These costs, when compared to the much higher ones of centralized systems and the many benefits from low-cost, clean, plentiful water, dictate that public servants apply their energies and talents to the fullest in finding and evaluating alternative ways of managing sewage waters.

--- We consider it irresponsible to apply only traditional California disposal techniques when far more sophisticated and cost-effective ones have been developed and proven elsewhere. It is true that we have a broad range of laws that should prevent degradation of the natural environment that results from a failure of planners to use due diligence in finding and adapting the most suitable techniques. It is also true that budgetary and political pressures upon agency staffs often causes undeserved permits to be issued. For this reason we intend to follow the progress of this Project carefully and to publicize deviations from a sensible program of finding and applying the most suitable techniques.

Thank you for your consideration of our concerns.  
Marilyn Creekmore - for the GreenBelt Committee

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**APPENDIX B**

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**SUPPLEMENTAL BIOLOGICAL TECHNICAL REPORT**

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**D R A F T**

**SUPPLEMENTAL BIOLOGICAL TECHNICAL REPORT  
P-527B SEWAGE EFFLUENT COMPLIANCE PROJECT  
LOWER SANTA MARGARITA BASIN  
MARINE CORPS BASE CAMP PENDLETON**

**Prepared for:**

Southwest Division  
Naval Facilities Engineering Command  
1220 Pacific Highway  
San Diego, California 92132-5187  
Contact: Vicky Taylor, Project Leader

**Prepared by:**

KEA Environmental, Inc.  
1420 Kettner Boulevard, Suite 620  
San Diego, California 92101  
Contact: Christina Schaefer, Senior Biologist

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Christina Schaefer, Senior Biologist

July 1998

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## **1.0 INTRODUCTION**

This Biological Technical Report (BTR) was prepared by KEA Environmental, Inc. (KEA) for Southwest Division, Naval Facilities Engineering Command (SWDIV) and Marine Corps Base (MCB) Camp Pendleton. It describes the existing conditions, impacts, and potential mitigation measures for the proposed action. The project alternatives include the placement of a sewage effluent pipeline and associated treatment facilities, percolation storage basins, and effluent discharge or re-use at various locations in the southwest region of MCB Camp Pendleton, California (Figures 1 and 2). The purpose of this report is to provide biological baseline data in compliance with the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA), the Endangered Species Act (ESA), and the Clean Water Act (CWA).

This BTR was prepared as a supplement to the existing biological data for the original Military Construction (MCON) P-527B Sewage Effluent Compliance project. The *Final Environmental Impact Statement/Report (FEIS/R)*, *Sewage Effluent Compliance Project Lower Santa Margarita Basin Marine Corps Base Camp Pendleton* (1997) addressed a system of pumps and piping to deliver effluent from STPs 1, 2, 3, 8, and 13 to percolation ponds and an existing ocean outfall for discharge. Each of three alternatives evaluated included an element of effluent or brine discharge through the ocean outfall at Oceanside, California. During final consideration of the proposed action, the use of the ocean outfall was not approved by the City of Oceanside City Council. Therefore, the original proposed action was not fully implemented and part of the proposed action has been revised. This BTR analyzes alternative ways to provide additional and sufficient disposal capacity on-Base without the use of an ocean outfall and thus achieve compliance with the San Diego Regional Water Quality Control Board (RWQCB) Cease and Desist Orders.

### **1.1 PROJECT DESCRIPTION**

The Sewage Effluent Compliance project for the Lower Santa Margarita Basin proposes to achieve compliance with the National Pollution Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) Cease and Desist Orders issued by the San Diego RWQCB for STPs 1, 2, 3, 8, and 13. Compliance with the Cease and Desist Orders is proposed through implementation of one of the following five alternatives and the no project alternative:



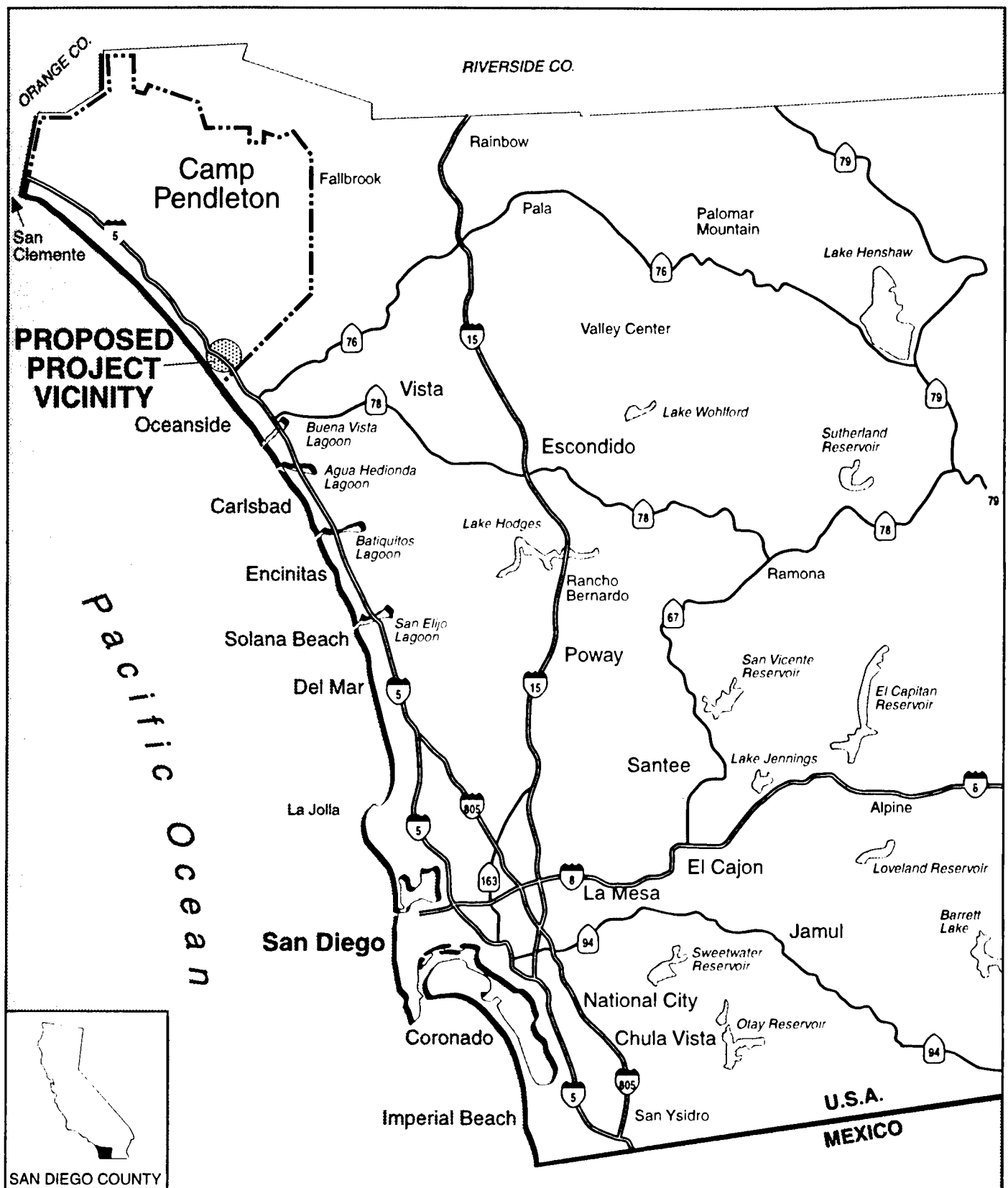


Figure 1

Regional Location Map

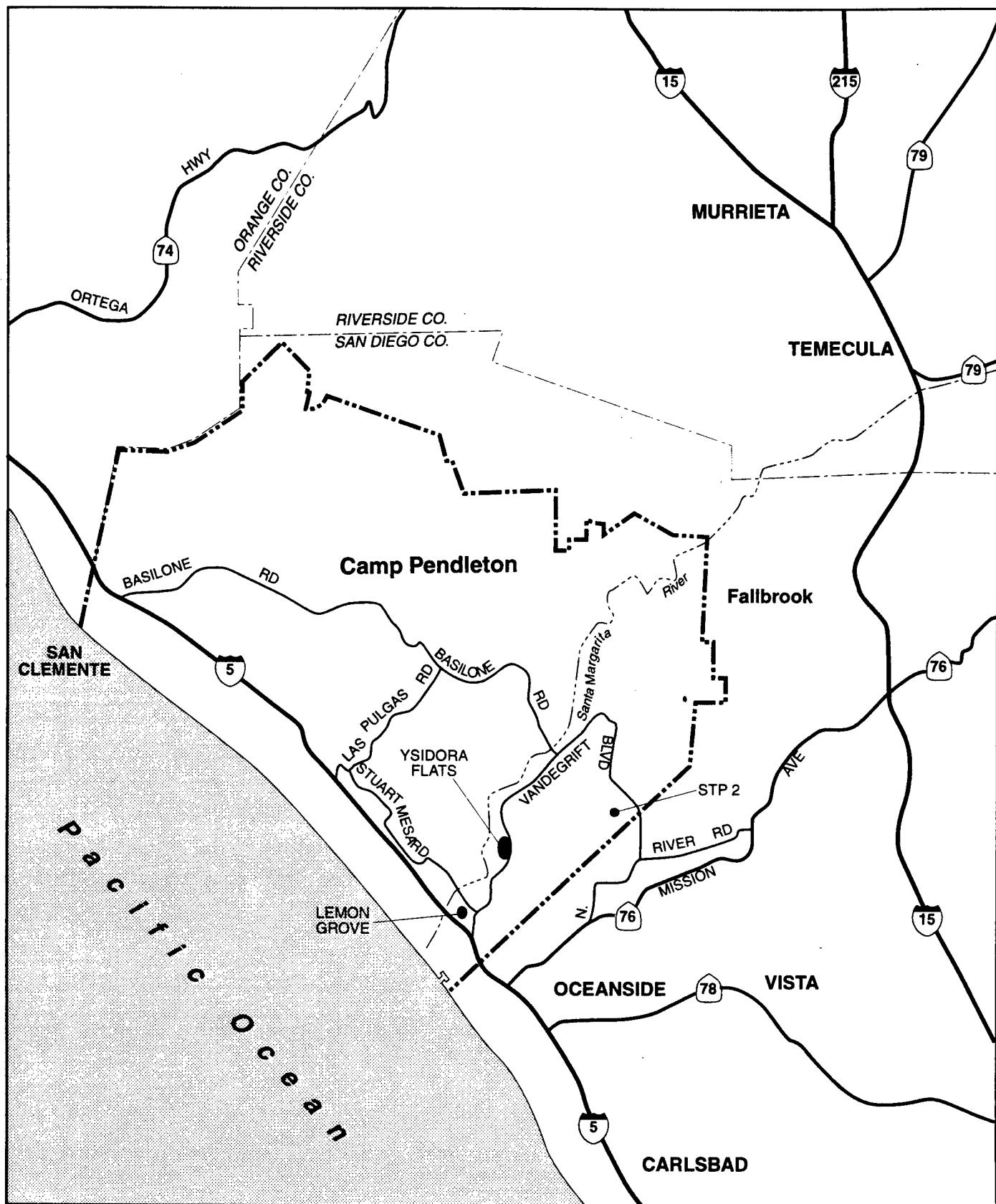


Figure 2

## Vicinity Map

1. Alternative 1: Discharge of Secondary Effluent at Lemon Grove in Percolation Ponds with Vertical Drains;
2. Alternative 2: Discharge of Secondary Effluent at Lemon Grove in Percolation Ponds with Vertical Drains plus Tertiary Treatment and Reclamation of a Portion of the Effluent (Preferred Alternative);
3. Alternative 3: Partial Advanced Water Treatment (AWT) Blended with Secondary Effluent for Groundwater Recharge at Ysidora Flats;
4. Alternative 4: Advanced Water Treatment and Discharge in Cased Wells at Lemon Grove;
5. Alternative 5: Advanced Water Treatment with Irrigation of Agricultural Fields and Discharge in Cased Wells; and
6. No Action Alternative.

In addition to the construction of percolation and/or storage ponds and advanced treatment facilities, each of the alternatives would involve the construction of sewage pipelines and pipeline turnout areas.

## 1.2 PROJECT LOCATION

The focused planning area consists of three study sites, encompassing five project alternatives, located within the southern portion of MCB Camp Pendleton. The alternative sites are dispersed but regionally bounded by Stuart Mesa and the Mass-3 Area to the north, DZ Morro Hill to the east, the Pacific Ocean to the west, and the City of Oceanside to the south (Figure 2). The following sites are described in this BTR: the Lemon Grove Percolation Ponds site, the Advanced Water Treatment Facility (AWT Facility) adjacent to the existing Sewage Treatment Plant (STP) 13 site, the Ysidora Flats site, and the STP 2 site.

The Lemon Grove Percolation Ponds site was previously addressed in the FEIS/R. The Lemon Grove site is bounded by the Santa Margarita River and Stuart Mesa Road to the north, Vandegrift Boulevard to the east, and Interstate 5 (I-5) to the west and south. The AWT Facility site is bounded by STP 13 to the west and north, Vandegrift Boulevard to the east, and the Base recycling center to the south. The Ysidora Flats Site occurs on the floodplain of the Santa Margarita River and is bounded by Vandegrift Boulevard to the north, south and west, and the Santa Margarita River to the east. STP 2 occurs along the slopes immediately to the east of Pilgrim Creek and is bordered by this creek to the west and Vandegrift Boulevard to the east, the Rodeo Grounds to the north and the City of Oceanside to the south.

## 2.0 METHODOLOGY

### 2.1 DATA SOURCES AND REFERENCES

Background information for this document stems from the original FEIS/R for the Santa Margarita Sewage Effluent Compliance Project (1997), and the following two U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACOE) permit documents: Section 404 Permit File # 96-000067-ES, February 25, 1997 (Base Realignment and Closure (BRAC) project permit); and, Section 404 Permit File # 96-00129-ES, April 6, 1998 (Levee project permit). The BRAC project is the realignment to MCAS/MCB Camp Pendleton; the Levee project is the combination of the Santa Margarita River Flood Control Project (P-010) and the Basilone Road Bridge Replacement Project (P-030).

Ysidora Flats and STP 2 were surveyed in 1992 as part of this initial project. Biological resources on these two sites were evaluated based on existing biological information within the appendices of the original P-527B FEIS/R as well as current aerial photographs of the site. Additionally the BRAC Wetlands Mitigation Project report (Tierra Data Systems 1997) was used to evaluate existing conditions of the Ysidora Flats site. The AWT Facility/Equalization Basin site was surveyed on foot on December 23 and 29, 1997 and March 11, 1998.

Biological resources were evaluated based on existing biological information within the appendices of the original FEIS/R and data sources for the project vicinity (e.g., Camp Pendleton mapping and the California Natural Diversity Data Base "Rarefind"). Biological resources were also mapped in the field using 1:2,400 scale topographic Marine Corps Base maps of the project area issued by Camp Pendleton Public Works Office and supplemented with digital data for sensitive plants and wildlife species (except least Bell's vireo and southwestern willow flycatcher). The original field surveys were performed for a different set of alternatives, only one of which (AWT site) is included in this BTR. Biological surveys for this supplemental analysis were conducted on the dates shown in Table 1.

Weather conditions during the field surveys consisted of clear skies with calm winds between 0 and 8 kilometers per hour (0 and 5 miles per hour). Temperatures ranged from 14° to 22° Centigrade (57° to 72° Fahrenheit).

**Table 1**  
**Schedule of Biological Surveys**

Type of Survey	Date	Time	Biologist
Vegetation	23 December 1997	0900-1600	John Messina
Wildlife	23 December 1997	0900-1600	Lyndon Quon
Vegetation and Wildlife	29 December 1997	1215-1245	Lyndon Quon
Vegetation	11 March 1998	0900-1700	John Messina
Wildlife	11 March 1998	0900-1700	Lyndon Quon

Plant species were identified by direct observation. Animal species were identified by both direct observation and indirect sign (i.e., scat, tracks, calls, nests, and burrows). Scientific nomenclature used throughout this report conforms to Hickman, ed. (1993) and Skinner and Pavlik (1994) for plants, Holland (1986) for vegetation communities, and Laudenslayer et al. (1991) for wildlife. Scientific nomenclature used throughout this report conforms to Hickman, ed. (1993) and Skinner and Pavlik (1994) for plants; Holland (1986) for vegetation communities; and Laudenslayer et al. (1991) for wildlife.

## **2.2 VEGETATION MAPPING**

Vegetation communities were classified and mapped in the field from strategic topographic vantage points. Habitats were classified based on the dominant and characteristic plant species, plant physiognomy, and soils in accordance with Holland's description of natural communities (1986), as modified by Oberbauer (1996). The focused study area was mapped for vegetation communities.

Each habitat type was delineated as a habitat polygon on the compiled vegetation maps and input into a geographic information system (GIS) data base and mapping system. Acreages were calculated using the GIS.

## **2.3 PLANT SURVEYS**

### **2.3.1 General Inventory**

All plant species encountered during the botanical surveys were identified in the field or sampled and identified in a laboratory setting. A floral inventory that includes all plant species detectable

during the late fall/early winter survey period was compiled and is included as Attachment A to this document.

### **2.3.2 Sensitive Plant Species**

The focused study area was surveyed for the presence of sensitive plant species according to standard survey protocols for plants. This involved searching for sensitive species expected in the region by walking meandering transects through the various habitats and focusing more effort on areas with a high potential for sensitive plant presence, such as openings in the shrub canopy and around rock outcrops. Sensitive species are those listed by the federal and state government and other wildlife monitoring agencies.

## **2.4 WILDLIFE SURVEYS**

### **2.4.1 General Inventory**

Wildlife surveys consisted of walking meandering transects through the various habitats within the focused study area. Wildlife species were identified by direct observation and indirect sign including tracks, scat, calls, nests, and burrows. A wildlife species inventory was compiled for species encountered during the surveys and is included as Attachment B to this document.

### **2.4.2 Sensitive Wildlife Species**

Least Bell's vireo (*Vireo bellii pusillus*), and southwestern willow flycatcher (*Empidonax traillii extimus*) data were acquired from Griffiths 1997, coastal California gnatcatcher (*Poliophtila californica californica*) data from Griffiths 1994, and arroyo southwestern toad (*Bufo microscaphus californicus*) data from Holland 1997. Information about the Quino checkerspot butterfly (*Euphydryas editha quino*) was gathered from Redak et al. (1997) and Riverside fairy shrimp (*Streptocephalus woottoni*) and San Diego fairy shrimp (*Branchinecta sandiegoensis*) map data were obtained from MCB Camp Pendleton's digital files.

As part of the surveys for the original four alternative sites, portions of the study area in close proximity to the Santa Margarita River were walked to identify suitable breeding and dispersal habitat for the federally listed endangered arroyo southwestern toad. Similarly, these original sites were surveyed for the general suitability of habitat for the federally listed endangered Stephens'

kangaroo rat and to identify potential presence of Pacific pocket mouse, another federally listed endangered species. Additionally, all stands of eucalyptus trees (*Eucalyptus* sp.) within the original focused study area were visited to look for the monarch butterfly (*Danaus plexippus*). As most of these areas are no longer alternatives of the proposed project, these surveys are no longer mentioned in this report.

### **Quino Checkerspot Butterfly Habitat Reconnaissance**

Habitat for the federally listed endangered Quino checkerspot butterfly (*Euphydryas editha quino*) consists of vegetation communities with relatively open areas that typically include patches of dot-seed plantain (*Plantago erecta*), Island plantain (*Plantago ovata*), purple owl's clover (*Castilleja exserta*), and other nectar carrying plants. Host plant populations were observed during surveys at the Stuart Mesa Effluent Ponds site on March 11, 1998; this site is no longer considered as an alternative of the proposed project. Host plant populations were not present on the Advanced Water Treatment nor the Equalization Basin sites, which are both immediately adjacent to STP 13.

### **3.0 EXISTING CONDITIONS**

#### **3.1 TOPOGRAPHY AND SOILS**

The topography and soil types within the three sites (discussed below) varies considerably, since they are non-contiguous areas situated throughout the southwest portion of MCB Camp Pendleton.

##### **3.1.1 Advanced Water Treatment Facility and Equalization Basin**

The AWT Facility site consists of a generally flat mesa adjacent to the east side of STP 13, and northwest of the Recycling Center. The equalization basin site occurs on the same mesa just south of the recycling center and north of the Base Commissary. The elevation of these sites ranges from approximately 40 to 45 feet above Mean Sea Level (MSL). The soils of both sites are sandy loams of the Visalia series (USDA 1973).

##### **3.1.2 Sewage Treatment Facility 2**

STP 2 occurs on the slopes above and to the west of Pilgrim Creek. The elevation of the site ranges from approximately 100 to 140 feet above MSL. Bonsall sandy loams and Tujunga sand are the soils onsite (USDA 1973).

##### **3.1.3 Ysidora Flats Site**

The Ysidora Flats site is located within the floodplain of the Santa Margarita River. The elevation of the site ranges from 25 to 30 feet above MSL. Greenfield sandy loams and Salinas clay are the soils onsite (USDA 1973).

#### **3.2 VEGETATION**

Vegetation types or communities and plant associations are assemblages of plant species that usually coexist in the same area. The classification of vegetation communities is based upon the life form of the dominant species within that community and the associated flora. Vegetation types were classified following the descriptions provided by Holland (1986), Oberbauer (1996), and Zedler, et al. (1997). In some instances, there may be an assemblage of plant species for which there is not an



adequate description in these references; therefore, the term plant associations is preferred over vegetation communities. In each instance, a category was selected that reflected both the floristics and physiognomy of the assemblage. Species names predominantly follow those of Hickman (1993), with occasional use of Beauchamp (1986), where necessary.

The existing plant associations occurring within the focused study area consist of the following community types: Diegan coastal sage scrub, southern coastal salt marsh, southern willow riparian forest, southern willow scrub, mule fat scrub, disturbed wetlands, non-native annual grassland, ruderal habitat, eucalyptus woodland/exotic trees, and developed/ornamental areas. These plant associations are generally described below and are shown in Figures 3 through 5.

#### 3.2.1 Plant Associations

##### **Diegan Coastal Sage Scrub**

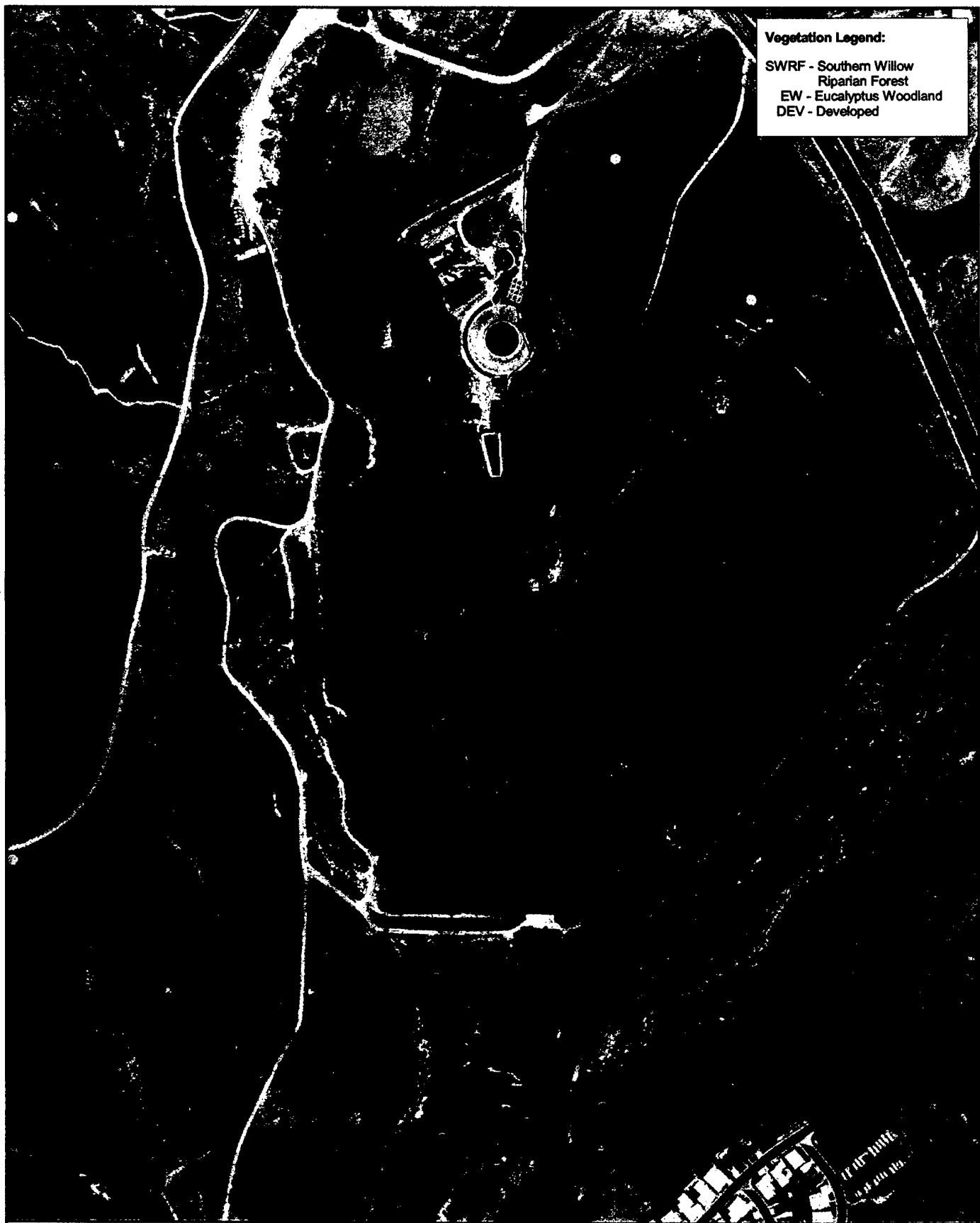
Coastal sage scrub is one of the major shrub-dominated (scrub) communities within California. This community occurs on xeric sites with shallow soils. Sage scrub species are typically drought deciduous plants with shallow root systems. Both of these adaptations allow for the occurrence of sage scrub species on xeric sites.

There are four floristic associations within the coastal sage scrub formation, all occurring within distinct geographical ranges along the California coast. The Diegan association occurs from Orange County to northwestern coastal Baja California (O'Leary 1990). Oberbauer (1996) recognizes coastal and inland forms of this association.

Diegan coastal sage scrub may be dominated by a variety of different species depending upon site-specific topographic, geographic, and soil conditions. Within San Diego County, there are several recognized sub-associations of Diegan coastal sage scrub, with classifications based upon the dominant species. California sagebrush (*Artemisia californica*) dominated sage scrub and disturbed coastal sage scrub occur along the bluffs, north and northwest of the Lemon Grove percolation ponds. Other species that were observed to be common within these sub-types include coastal goldenbush (*Isocoma menziesii* var. *vernonoides*), laurel sumac (*Malosma laurina*), Mexican elderberry (*Sambucus mexicana*), coastal prickly pear (*Opuntia littoralis*), and cane cholla (*Opuntia parryi* var. *parryi*).



Figure 3  
**Vegetation & Sensitive  
 Species for Lemon Grove**



**Vegetation Legend:**

SWRF - Southern Willow  
Riparian Forest  
EW - Eucalyptus Woodland  
DEV - Developed

Source: Base Aerial Coverage: Southwest Division  
Vegetation Communities: P-527 FEIS/R, 1997  
SWWF and LBV Data: 1997 Griffith Data

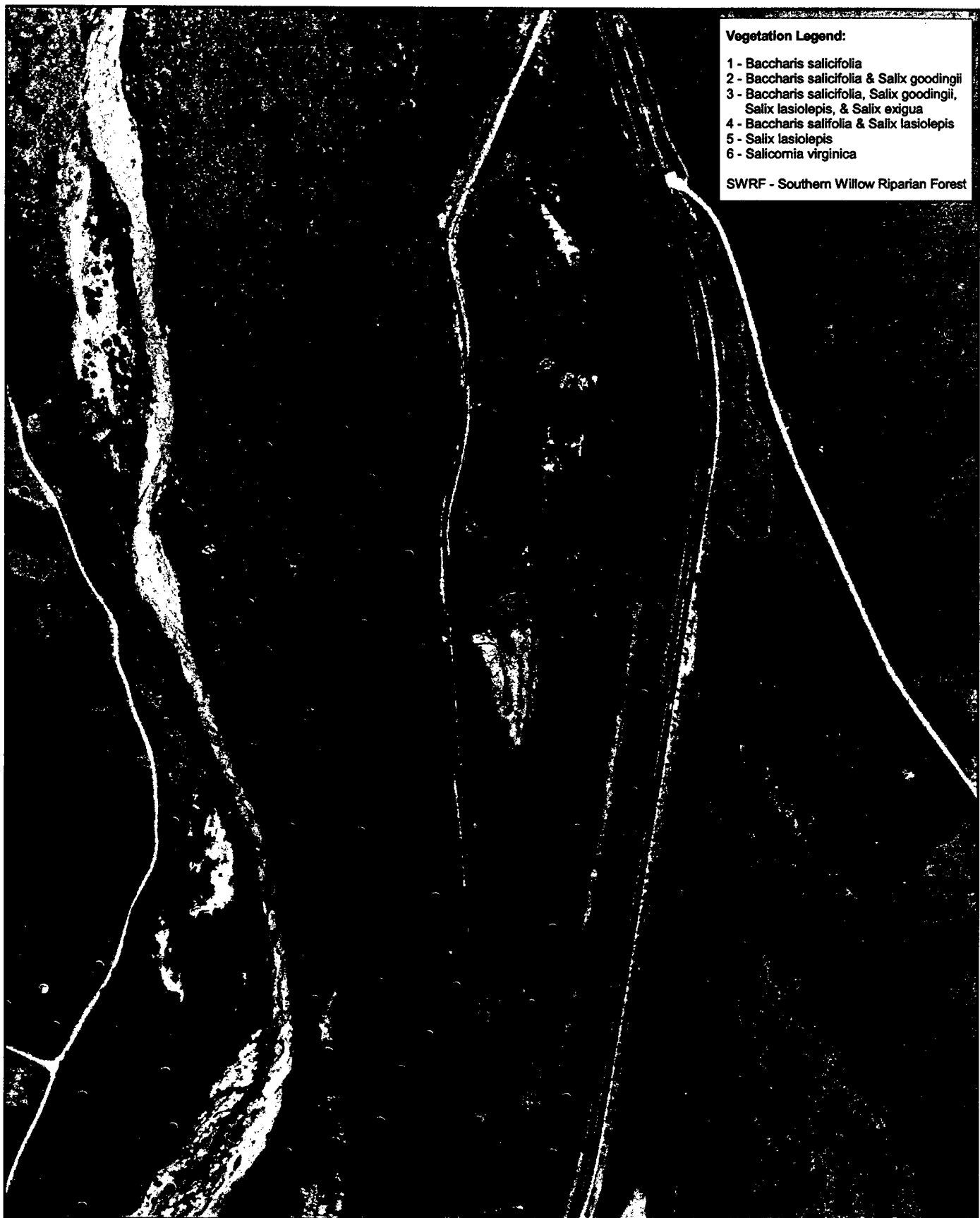
**Sensitive Species**

- Least Bell's Vireo Sighting
- Southwest Willow Flycatcher Sighting
- Gnatcatcher Sighting (1994)

∧ Vegetation Community Boundary

200 0 200 400 600 Feet

Figure 4  
**Vegetation & Sensitive  
Species for STP 2**



**Vegetation Legend:**

- 1 - *Baccharis salicifolia*
- 2 - *Baccharis salicifolia* & *Salix goodingii*
- 3 - *Baccharis salicifolia*, *Salix goodingii*,  
*Salix lasiolepis*, & *Salix exigua*
- 4 - *Baccharis salicifolia* & *Salix lasiolepis*
- 5 - *Salix lasiolepis*
- 6 - *Salicornia virginica*

SWRF - Southern Willow Riparian Forest

Source: Base Aerial Coverage: Southwest Division  
Vegetation Communities: Southwest Division  
SWWF and LBV Data: 1997 Griffith Data



300 0 300 600 900 Feet

**Sensitive Species**

- Least Bell's Vireo Sighting
- Southwest Arroyo Toad Sighting
- Gnatcatcher Sighting (1994)
- Southwest Willow Flycatcher Sighting

∨ Vegetation Community Boundary

Figure 5

## Vegetation & Sensitive Species of Ysidora Flats

## Riparian and Wetland Communities

Riparian communities occur along stream courses and drainages and are floristically and structurally distinct from the adjacent upland communities. Riparian communities may be floristically similar to each other, but may differ sufficiently in structure to warrant different classifications (forests, woodlands, scrub). Most of the dominant species in these communities require moist, bare mineral soils for germination and establishment, much like the conditions following periodic flooding (Holland 1986). Riparian and wetland communities that occur either on or adjacent to the project site(s) include southern willow riparian forest, southern willow scrub and mule fat scrub. The majority of these communities are dominated by willows (*Salix* sp.) and mulefat (*Baccharis salicifolia*). However, giant reed (*Arundo donax*), a noxious weed, is invading these native wetland communities, particularly within the Santa Margarita River watershed, displacing native plant and animal species, including sensitive species. Often, riparian and wetland communities are regulated by the USACOE if the three parameters, hydrology, hydric soils and hydrophytic vegetation, are present. These jurisdictional wetlands boundaries are determined through delineations pursuant to the USACOE 1987 Wetland Delineation Manual. The following discussion pertains to wetlands of undetermined jurisdictional status (biological wetlands).

### Southern Willow Riparian Forest

Southern willow riparian forest is a tall, open forest that occurs along major streams and rivers. It is dominated by several willow species including: arroyo willow (*Salix lasiolepis*), Goodding's black willow (*Salix gooddingii*) and narrow-leaved willow (*Salix exigua*). Understory species such as mule fat, mugwort (*Artemisia douglasiana*), and stinging nettle (*Urtica dioica* ssp. *holosericea*), may also be present (Beauchamp 1986). This community occurs along Pilgrim Creek adjacent to the STP 2 site. It also surrounds the mitigation site for the BRAC and Levee projects along the Santa Margarita River within the former Ysidora Ponds. The proposed Ysidora Flats discharge site is located in the mitigation site. The mitigation for both projects includes onsite natural recruitment of native riparian vegetation, including southern willow riparian forest. The USACOE permit for the projects requires that natural recruitment of native riparian species and exclusion of exotic weeds be monitored for at least five years.

### Southern Willow Scrub

Southern willow scrub is found on loose, sandy, or fine gravelly alluvium deposited near stream channels during floods. Most stands are too dense to allow much understory to develop. Southern willow scrub may represent a successional stage leading to riparian woodland or may be stable. This community is generally dominated by arroyo willow and, occasionally, Goodding's black willow, narrow-leaved willow, and mule fat. This community currently occurs between Vandegrift Boulevard and the former Ysidora Ponds as well as on some of the former pond berms that remain after the ponds were removed for the BRAC mitigation project. Southern willow scrub had previously occurred in patches throughout the Ysidora Ponds site along the Santa Margarita River.

### Mule Fat Scrub

Mule fat scrub is a riparian shrub community that is dominated by mule fat in association with arroyo willow and Goodding's willow. In the absence of frequent flooding and human-caused disturbance, this community may develop into a riparian woodland or forest (Holland 1986). This community is adjacent to the former Ysidora Ponds site, which is currently a mitigation site for the BRAC and Levee projects, and had occurred in some areas in the current mitigation site.

### Southern Coastal Salt Marsh

Coastal salt marsh occupies wetland habitats that are subject to tidal influence and to varying degrees of freshwater input, primarily during the rainy season. Because of their coastal location they are also subject to salt spray. Salt marsh plants are mostly herbaceous perennials and low shrubs which are tolerant of both flooding and high salt content (Zedler et al. 1997). Coastal salt marsh plants are distributed along distinct zones depending upon such environmental factors as frequency and length of tidal inundation, salinity levels, and nutrient status (MacDonald 1977). The common species of the salt marshes of Camp Pendleton are: pickleweed (*Salicornia subterminalis*), (*S. virginica*), alkali heath (*Frankenia salina*) and salt grass (*Distichlis spicata*). The Santa Margarita River Estuary is the major salt marsh at Camp Pendleton covering approximately 159 acres (Zedler et al. 1997).

### Disturbed Wetlands

Disturbed wetlands are communities that are dominated by exotic wetland species. These species invade sites that have been previously disturbed or are periodically disturbed. This perturbation

regime has resulted in the displacement of native wetland species and the subsequent colonization of these areas by exotics. Disturbed wetlands onsite are dominated by cocklebur (*Xanthium strumarium* var. *canadense*), umbrella sedge (*Cyperus* sp.), and curly dock (*Rumex crispus*). Disturbed wetlands occur in some areas around the mitigation site at the former Ysidora Ponds and also between the former ponds and Vandegrift Boulevard.

## **Grassland Communities**

### Non-Native Annual Grassland

Most of the grasslands in the coastal and foothill areas of San Diego County are dominated by exotic annual grasses of Mediterranean origin. The factors that contributed to the replacement of native grasslands by non-native grasslands, are many. The Mediterranean region has a maritime climate similar to that of much of cismontane California. The Mediterranean region has a long history of agriculture and grazing activities and many of these introduced species are disturbance associated. Many of these species are thus pre-adapted to areas with similar climates and disturbance regimes. Intensive grazing and agriculture, accidental and intentional species introductions, along with some severe droughts during the early Spanish Era, allowed for the successful invasion of these exotic species and the subsequent displacement and exclusion of native grasses. It was initially believed that over-grazing was the principle factor in the displacement of native grasses but there is considerable current debate over this. This association may have replaced native grassland and coastal sage scrub, as evidenced at many localities throughout San Diego County. Wild oats (*Avena barbata*) was the only grass species identifiable at the time of the survey within all the grasslands surveyed, but other exotic grass species such as red brome (*Bromus madritensis* ssp. *rubens*), ripgut grass (*Bromus diandrus*), and foxtail fescue (*Vulpia megalura*) are expected to locally dominate this community onsite. Characteristic forbs include sweet fennel (*Foeniculum vulgare*), red-stemmed filaree (*Erodium cicutarium*), and mustard (*Hirschfeldia incana*).

### Ruderal

Areas of high and frequent soil disturbance that are generally bare or are dominated by non-native weedy forbs (herbaceous, non-grass species) that are adapted to a regime of frequent disturbances are classified as ruderal. Ruderal areas onsite consist of disturbed lands that have been completely invaded by weedy forbs (most abundantly, sweet fennel). Many of the species characteristic of ruderal areas are also indicator species of annual grasslands. Telegraph weed (*Heterotheca*

*grandiflora*), mustard, sweet fennel, deer weed (*Lotus scoparius*), and red-stemmed filaree are the dominant species within the ruderal areas onsite.

### **Eucalyptus Woodland/Exotic Trees**

This community is dominated by several species of eucalyptus. These introduced tree species produce large amounts of leaf and bark litter, the chemical composition of which inhibits the establishment of other species, especially natives, in the understory. Generally, these species were planted for aesthetic and horticultural purposes, but many species of eucalyptus have become naturalized and have been quite successful in invading riparian areas.

### **Developed/Ornamental Areas**

Developed/ornamental plant associations can be found in those portions of the study area that have been developed and support structures or that have been planted with ornamentals, such as at STP 2.

#### **3.2.2 Plant Associations at the Five Alternative Sites and Pipelines**

This section provides site-specific information about the plant associations described above including acreages and locations within the focused study area.

### **Advanced Water Treatment Facility and Equalization Basin**

The AWT site is developed with 0.4 acre of ornamentals and 0.6 acre of non-native grassland. The 1.0 acre Equalization Basin study area is entirely located within non-native grassland (see Figure 3). The proposed AWT facility at STP 13 is a component of Alternatives 3, 4 and 5. The proposed equalization basin at STP 13 is a component of Alternatives 4 and 5.

### **Sewage Treatment Plant 2**

The STP 2 study area covers 1.0 acre of ruderal habitat within an existing developed area. The proposed site is adjacent to southern willow riparian forest habitat along Pilgrim Creek (see Figure 4). The proposed equalization basin and tertiary treatment facility at STP 2 are components of Alternative 2.



#### **Ysidora Flats**

Two sets of percolation ponds at Ysidora Basin, the Ysidora Ponds, were previously located along the Santa Margarita River between the river and Vandegrift Boulevard (See Figure 5). Floods in 1993 breached the pond berms in several places. Subsequently, riparian vegetation became established on the site on which the ponds were located. The previously noted BRAC and Levee projects resulted in impacts to jurisdictional wetlands and riparian habitats. To mitigate for these impacts, wetlands are being created within the area of the former Ysidora Ponds. The pond berms that were breached in 1993 were partly removed in 1997 to re-establish the natural floodplain of the Santa Margarita River. While the mitigation site for the BRAC project is currently (1998) in its first monitoring year, the Levee project mitigation acreage has not yet been formally allocated; a mitigation plan is currently being prepared by the Marine Corps. According to permits issued by the USACOE on February 25, 1997 for the BRAC project, and on April 6, 1998 for the Levee project, mitigation objectives are as follows:

- create riparian habitat and jurisdictional wetlands by establishing appropriate hydrologic regimes and opportunity for natural recruitment of riparian vegetation;
- for five years after initiation of mitigation monitoring, control the invasion of noxious weeds (as specified in the USACOE permit), monitor the recruitment of native riparian vegetation and avifauna, and monitor hydrology and nutrient content; and
- by the end of the fifth monitoring year and for an additional twelve consecutive months, the site shall contain less than five percent relative cover of exotic species.

#### **3.3 WILDLIFE**

A total of 33 animal species were detected during previous surveys within the study area, including one invertebrate species, one amphibian species, one reptile species, 27 bird species, and three mammal species (Attachment B).

Coastal sage scrub habitats onsite could consist of several bird species including Bewick's wren (*Thryomanes bewickii*), white-crowned sparrow (*Zonotrichia leucophrys*), yellow-rumped warbler (*Dendroica coronata*), and California towhee (*Pipilo crissalis*). Birds associated with the eucalyptus woodland onsite include red-tailed hawk (*Buteo jamaicensis*), and house finch (*Carpodacus*

*mexicanus*). Surrounding riparian habitats are typically utilized by bird species such as black phoebe (*Sayornis nigricans*) and yellow-rumped warbler.

### 3.3.1 Advanced Water Treatment Facility

Bird species observed in the non-native grassland onsite include killdeer and house finch.

### 3.3.2 STP 2 Site

This site is mainly developed. However, surrounding coastal sage scrub habitats onsite could consist of several bird species including Bewick's wren (*Thryomanes bewickii*), white-crowned sparrow (*Zonotrichia leucophrys*), yellow-rumped warbler (*Dendroica coronata*), and California towhee (*Pipilo crissalis*). Birds associated with the eucalyptus woodland onsite include red-tailed hawk (*Buteo jamaicensis*), and house finch (*Carpodacus mexicanus*). Surrounding riparian habitats are typically utilized by bird species such as black phoebe (*Sayornis nigricans*) and yellow-rumped warbler.

### 3.3.3 Ysidora Flats Site

Avian species that could potentially occur in riparian habitats onsite include song sparrow (*Melospiza melodia*), yellow-rumped warbler (*Dendroica coronata*), common yellowthroat (*Geothlypis trichas*), Hutton's vireo (*Vireo huttoni*), belted kingfisher (*Ceryle alcyon*), and great horned owl (*Bubo virginianus*), among others. Mammals likely to frequent riparian forest habitats include Virginia opossum (*Didelphis marsupialis*), dusky-footed woodrat (*Neotoma fuscipes*), mule deer (*Odocoileus hemionus*), and raccoon.

## 3.4 SENSITIVE BIOLOGICAL RESOURCES

The study area was evaluated for the extent, quality, and significance of existing sensitive biological resources.

### 3.4.1 Sensitive Plant Species

Sensitive plants include those listed by the USFWS (1997a, 1997b), California Department of Fish and Game (CDFG) (1997a), and those plant species designated as rare, threatened, or endangered

in California and elsewhere (List 1B species) by the California Native Plant Society (CNPS) (Skinner and Pavlik, 1994). No sensitive species were observed on the AWT Facility/Equalization Basin site and due to the lack of native habitat on this site, no sensitive plant species are expected to occur there. No sensitive plant species were found at the STP 2 and Ysidora Flats sites during surveys for the FEIS/R.

Table 2 lists the more highly sensitive plant species known to occur on Camp Pendleton, if there is appropriate habitat within a study area, along with their sensitivity status and comments on their potential for occurrence onsite (see the footnotes to Table 2 for an explanation of the USFWS, CDFG, and CNPS designations).

#### **3.4.2 Sensitive Animal Species**

Sensitive animal species are those listed by the USFWS (1996a, 1997a, 1997b) and those listed by the CDFG (1997b) as sensitive for the reasons described earlier. The USFWS officially lists sensitive species as either threatened or endangered and, unofficially, lists other sensitive species as Federal Species of Special Concern.

Several sensitive animal species were observed onsite or are known from immediately adjacent to the site(s). The sensitive wildlife species observed, or that have a potential for occurrence onsite, are listed in Table 2 along with their sensitivity status and comments on their distribution (see the footnotes to Table 2 for an explanation of the sensitivity designations). These federally listed species are discussed below.

#### **Sensitive Animal Species Observed or Potentially Occurring Within the Study Areas**

##### Federally Sensitive Species Observed (December 1997)

##### **Coastal California Gnatcatcher - *Polioptila californica californica***

USFWS Status: Threatened

Listing Data: The coastal California gnatcatcher was listed by the USFWS on 30 March 1993 (Federal Register 58 FR 16757). This listing status applies to the entire population of *P. c. californica*. Critical habitat has not been determined by the USFWS and there is no approved recovery plan for the species.

**Table 2**  
**Listed and Sensitive Species with Known or Potential Occurrence**  
**on or Adjacent to the P-527B Sewage Effluent Compliance Study Area**

Species Name	USFWS Status*	CDFG Status*	Other*	On-Site Occurrence or Potential
<b>Plants</b>				
Thread-Leaved Brodiaea ( <i>Brodiaea filifolia</i> )	PT	E	CNPS 1B, 3-3-3	This species is known to occur on Camp Pendleton. Thread-leaved brodiaea has a low potential to occur in the grasslands of the Lemon Grove study area due to the lack of clay soils. Spring surveys are needed to determine presence or absence of this species onsite.
Orcutt's Brodiaea ( <i>Brodiaea orcuttii</i> )			CNPS 1B, 1-3-2	This species has recently been reported on Camp Pendleton [north of the 25 Area, south of Kilo 2 (KEA 1998)]. Orcutt's brodiaea has a low potential to occur within the Lemon Grove study areas in vernal moist grasslands, swales, or streamside habitat.
Blochman's Dudleya ( <i>Dudleya blochmaniae</i> ssp. <i>blochmaniae</i> )			CNPS 1B, 2-2-2	Known to occur on Camp Pendleton. This species occurs in sandy openings of coastal sage scrub near the coast. This species has a moderate potential for occurrence in the undisturbed sage scrub on the Lemon Grove study area, but was not observed during the survey.
Many-Stemmed Dudleya ( <i>Dudleya multicaulis</i> )			CNPS 1B, 1-2-3	Known to occur on Camp Pendleton. This species occurs in openings of the ecotonal transitional areas between sage scrub and grasslands. This species has a moderate potential for occurrence in the undisturbed sage scrub on the Lemon Grove study area, but was not observed during the survey.
Coast Wallflower ( <i>Erysimum amphilum</i> )			CNPS 1B, 2-2-3	Known to occur on Camp Pendleton. The taxonomy of this entity in San Diego County is uncertain (i.e. populations previously identified as this species may be <i>E. capitatum</i> ). Populations of this species have been previously identified in close proximity to the Lemon Grove study area. This "species" would have a high potential for occurrence within the undisturbed sage scrub of this study area, but was not observed during the survey.
Southwestern Spiny Rush ( <i>Juncus acutus</i> ssp. <i>leopoldii</i> )			CNPS 4, 1-2-1	This species is known to occur on Camp Pendleton at the mouth of the Santa Margarita River Estuary.
Del Mar Sand Aster ( <i>Lessingia filaginifolia</i> var. <i>linifolia</i> )			CNPS 1B, 3-2-3	Known to occur on Camp Pendleton. This species occurs in sandy coastal areas (both disturbed and chaparral habitats). Del Mar sand aster was not observed during the surveys and is expected to have a low potential for occurrence in the sandy areas of the study areas.
Cleveland's Goldenstar ( <i>Muilla clevelandii</i> )			CNPS 1B, 2-2-2	This species is not reported to occur on Camp Pendleton. Cleveland's goldenstar occurs in grasslands and adjacent to vernal pools in areas of clay substrates. This species has a low potential for occurrence within the Lemon Grove study area, but was not observed during the survey.
<b>Fish</b>				
Tidewater Goby ( <i>Eucyclogobius Newberryi</i> )	E			This species is historically known from the Santa Margarita River Estuary, but has not been reported from there since 1991.
<b>Invertebrates</b>				
Monarch Butterfly ( <i>Danaus plexippus</i> )		SA-Over-wintering		Observed approximately 50 individuals airborne within the eucalyptus woodland at the Lemon Grove site.
Quino Checkerspot Butterfly ( <i>Euphydryas editha quino</i> )	E			Not known to occur on Camp Pendleton.
Riverside Fairy Shrimp ( <i>Streptocephalus woottoni</i> )	E			Not known to occur on Camp Pendleton.
San Diego Fairy Shrimp ( <i>Branchinecta sandiegoensis</i> )	E			Not known to occur on Camp Pendleton.

### 3.0 Existing Conditions

Species Name	USFWS Status*	CDFG Status*	Other*	On-Site Occurrence or Potential
<b>Amphibians</b>				
Arroyo Southwestern Toad ( <i>Bufo microscaphus californicus</i> )	E	SSC		Known to occur on Camp Pendleton within the Santa Margarita River basin.
<b>Birds</b>				
Golden Eagle ( <i>Aquila chrysaetos</i> )	P			Although no golden eagles were observed within the study area, the species may occasionally forage in the grassland habitats onsite. No nesting is expected in the project vicinity.
Coastal California Gnatcatcher ( <i>Poliophtila californica californica</i> )	T	SSC		One pair of gnatcatchers were observed in the coastal sage scrub at the Lemon Grove site immediately north of the ponds.
Least Bell's Vireo ( <i>Vireo bellii pusillus</i> )	E	E		Known to occur at Camp Pendleton. Current data indicate that least Bell's vireo occupy the narrow band of southern willow scrub adjacent to the north end of the Lemon Grove site. This species is also known to occur in the Santa Margarita River at Ysidora Flats adjacent to the outfall facility and along Pilgrim Creek adjacent to Sewage Treatment Plant #2.
Southwestern Willow Flycatcher ( <i>Empidonax traillii extimus</i> )	E			This species is known to occur in the Santa Margarita River at Ysidora Flats adjacent to the outfall facility.
Great Blue Heron ( <i>Ardea herodias herodias</i> )		SA-Rookery	Everett-S	No suitable nesting habitat occurs within the study area.
Turkey Vulture ( <i>Cathartes aura</i> )			Everett-D	One turkey vulture was observed circling over the Lemon Grove site, where it likely forages for carrion.
Osprey ( <i>Pandion haliaetus</i> )		SSC-Breeding		Not likely to nest within the study area due to a lack of suitable habitat.
White-tailed Kite ( <i>Elanus coeruleus majusculus</i> )		SA-Nesting		Observed at the Lemon Grove site. Not likely to nest within the study area due to a lack of appropriate habitat.
Loggerhead Shrike ( <i>Lanius ludovicianus</i> )		SSC		One loggerhead shrike was observed in the ruderal habitat at the south end of the Lemon Grove site.

**\*Status Codes:**

U.S. Fish and Wild Service (USFWS)

E = Endangered; T = Threatened; PE = Proposed Endangered; PT = Proposed Threatened

California Department of Fish and Game (CDFG)

E = Endangered; T = Threatened; FP = Fully Protected; SA = Special Animal; SSC = Species of Special Concern

California Native Plant Society (CNPS) (Skinner and Pavlik 1994)

List 1B - Plants rare and endangered in California and elsewhere

CNPS R-E-D Code

**R (Rarity):** 1 = Rare, but found in sufficient numbers and distributed widely enough that the potential for extinction or extirpation is low at this time; 2 = Occurrence confined to several populations or to one extended population; 3 = Occurrence limited to one or a few highly restricted populations, or present in such numbers that it is seldom reported

**E (Endangerment):** 1 = Not endangered; 2 = Endangered in a portion of its range; 3 = Endangered throughout its range

**D (Distribution):** 1 = More or less wide spread outside California; 2 = Rare outside California; 3 = Endemic to California

Everett-D = Declining

Everett-S = Sensitive

- Distribution:** The coastal California gnatcatcher is believed to be extirpated from San Bernardino County and is declining proportionately with the continued loss of coastal sage scrub habitat located within the coastal plain in the five remaining southern California counties (Ventura, Los Angeles, Orange, San Diego, and Riverside).
- Habitat:** Habitat preferences in San Diego County consist of Diegan coastal sage scrub dominated by California sagebrush (*Artemisia californica*) and flat-topped buckwheat (*Eriogonum fasciculatum*), which are the primary plants used by gnatcatchers when foraging for insects (RECON 1987; ERCE 1990). It inhabits coastal sage scrub vegetation below 760 meters (2,500 feet) elevation in Riverside County and generally below 300 meters (1,000 feet) elevation along the coastal slope; and generally avoids steep slopes above 25 percent and dense, tall vegetation for nesting.
- Natural History:** The subspecies is a local and uncommon year-round resident of southern California with a breeding season that extends from 1 February through 15 July. The territory size requirements of the coastal California gnatcatcher varies with habitat quality. Documented home ranges have varied from 2 to 18 hectares (6 to 45 acres) in San Diego County (RECON 1987; ERCE 1990).
- Comments:** The United States coastal California gnatcatcher population is estimated between 1,800 and 2,500 pairs remaining in southern California (Atwood 1992, USFWS 1994). The primary cause of this subspecies' decline is the cumulative loss of coastal sage scrub vegetation to urban and agricultural development. Little of this subspecies' habitat is formally protected or managed. Initial studies suggest that the coastal California gnatcatcher may be highly sensitive to the effects of habitat fragmentation and development activity (Atwood 1990; ERCE 1990). The USFWS has estimated that coastal sage scrub habitat has been reduced by 70 to 90 percent of its historical extent (USFWS 1991) and little of what remains is protected in natural open space.
- Status on Site:** One pair of coastal California gnatcatchers was observed in the sage scrub immediately north of the Lemon Grove Percolation Ponds. Base-wide data indicate that the coastal sage scrub north and east of the site has supported the species. Base-wide data also indicate that this species occurs east and west of STP 2 (Griffith Wildlife Biology 1994).

Federally Sensitive Species Potentially Occurring (Within Known Range/Habitat Type)

**Arroyo Southwestern Toad - *Bufo microscaphus californicus***

USFWS Status: Endangered

Listing Data: The arroyo southwestern toad was listed by the USFWS on 16 December 1994 (Federal Register 59 FR 64866). This listing status applies to the entire population of arroyo southwestern toad. Critical habitat has not been determined by the USFWS, and there is no approved recovery plan for the subspecies.

Distribution: Found in the semiarid parts of the southwest from near Santa Margarita in San Luis Obispo County to northwestern Baja California.

Habitat: This subspecies of southwestern toad is typically associated with gravelly or sandy washes, stream and river banks, and arroyos. Adult toads spend most of the year in burrows in upland habitat near washes and streams. Non-breeding habitat includes sage scrub, mixed chaparral, Joshua tree woodland, and sagebrush habitats.

Natural History: Breeding activity has been observed from February to June depending on temperatures and precipitation (Sullivan 1992; Sweet 1993). Breeding occurs in quiet, clear backwaters of streams as waters recede from the floods of the wet season. Males call from suitable breeding habitat at night. The call is a musical trill heard in 10 second bursts. Eggs are laid on the bottom of the shallow pools, usually in tangled strings of 1-3 rows. The eggs are sensitive to siltation and require good water quality. Because the eggs are laid in very shallow water and are not anchored or attached, rapid changes in stream flow can leave the eggs dry or wash them away. The tadpoles reach a maximum length of about 4.0 centimeters (1.5 inches) and are solitary and extremely cryptic, typically mottled or spotted with blackish to brown colors. Juvenile toads bask during the day on sandy or gravelly beaches in the late summer before beginning the subterranean life of the adults. The adults spend the majority of the year in burrows and are nocturnal and can occasionally be found at night foraging on open, sandy areas around the drainage.

Comments: An estimated 75 percent of the historical habitat of the species has been destroyed and many of the remaining populations are threatened. The primary reasons for the decline of the species include dams and water projects, urban development, agriculture and grazing, and human recreational activities in breeding areas.

**Status on Site:** The arroyo southwestern toad is known from the Santa Margarita River Basin and from upland locations north of the Santa Margarita River Basin near Stuart Mesa. The arroyo southwestern toad is not known from Ysidora Flats nor has it been reported from Pilgrim Creek near STP 2 as described in the FEIS/R.

**Least Bell's Vireo - *Vireo bellii pusillus***

**USFWS Status:** Endangered

**Listing Data:** The least Bell's vireo was listed by the USFWS on 2 May 1986 (Federal Register 51 FR 16482), with a critical habitat listing. This listing status applies to the entire population of least Bell's vireo. No recovery plan has been approved for the species.

**Distribution:** Historically this subspecies was a common summer visitor to riparian habitat throughout much of California. Currently, least Bell's vireo is found only in riparian woodlands in southern California, with the majority of breeding pairs in San Diego, Santa Barbara, and Riverside Counties. Substantial vireo populations are currently found on five rivers in San Diego County (Tijuana, Sweetwater, San Diego, San Luis Rey, and Santa Margarita), with smaller populations on other drainages. Over 460 breeding pairs or territorial males were recorded in San Diego County in 1991 (Salata, pers. comm.).

**Habitat:** Least Bell's vireo is restricted to riparian woodland and is most frequent in areas that combine an understory of dense young willows or mulefat with a canopy of tall willows. Since the vireos build their nests in dense shrubbery 1 to 1.2 meters (3 to 4 feet) above the ground (Salata 1984), they require young successional riparian habitat or older habitat with a dense understory. Therefore, riparian plant succession is an important factor maintaining vireo habitat. Also, nests are often placed along internal or external edges of riparian thickets (USFWS 1986).

**Natural History:** The least Bell's vireo arrives in San Diego County in late March and early April and leaves for its wintering ground in September.

**Comments:** The vireo's decline is due to loss, degradation, and fragmentation of riparian habitat combined with nest parasitism by the brown-headed cowbird.

**Status on Site:** Current Base-wide least Bell's vireo survey results indicate that the species occupy suitable nesting habitat immediately adjacent to the Lemon Grove site in the narrow strip of southern willow scrub west of the Twin Lakes Reservoirs and east of the proposed seasonal discharge pipeline turnout area (Griffith Wildlife Biology 1997). The Base-wide study also indicates that least Bell's vireo occupy



habitat along Pilgrim Creek immediately east of STP 2 and along the Santa Margarita River at Ysidora Flats as described in the FEIS/R.

**Southwestern Willow Flycatcher - *Empidonax traillii extimus***

USFWS Status: Endangered

Listing Data: The southwestern willow flycatcher was listed by the USFWS on 27 February 1995 (Federal Register 60 FR 10715). This listing applies to the entire population of *E. t. extimus*. Critical habitat for the subspecies was determined by the USFWS on 16 July 1997 (Federal Register 62 FR 39129), and corrected on 20 August 1997 (Federal Register 62 FR 44228) regarding critical habitat on MCB Camp Pendleton. No approved recovery plan has been adopted for the southwestern willow flycatcher.

Distribution: This subspecies of willow flycatcher is a summer breeding resident in riparian habitats in southern California, southern Nevada, southern Utah, Arizona, New Mexico, western Texas, southwestern Colorado, and northwestern Mexico (USFWS 1995a). In San Diego County only two substantial breeding populations are known to remain along the Santa Margarita River and the upper San Luis Rey River.

Habitat: It is restricted to dense riparian woodlands of willow, cottonwood, and other deciduous shrubs and trees. In general, the riparian habitat of this subspecies tends to be rare, isolated, small and/or in linear patches, separated by vast expanses of arid lands.

Natural History: Spring migration of the endangered subspecies is relatively late, beginning in early May and extending through June (Unitt 1984). Fall migration of the subspecies occurs rather early, from August through mid-October. Egg laying by the endangered southwestern willow flycatcher occurs in San Diego County from the end of May through the end of June. Dense willow thickets are required for nesting and nests are often near standing water (CDFG 1990). Willow flycatchers hunt for insects from low exposed perches, flying out to catch the insects in mid-air.

Comments: The southwestern willow flycatcher was listed as endangered by the USFWS in February 1995 because of "extensive loss of riparian breeding habitat, brood parasitism by the brown-headed cowbird (*Molothrus ater*), and lack of adequate protective regulations" (USFWS 1995a). This subspecies was previously listed as endangered by the CDFG in December 1990. The population of southwestern

willow flycatcher in southern California was estimated to be less than 80 pairs in the early 1980's (Unitt 1984).

**Status on Site:** The southwestern willow flycatcher is known from the Santa Margarita River immediately west of the Ysidora Flats outfall facility site and is documented in the FEIS/R. This species is also known from Pilgrim Creek, south of STP 2 (Griffith Wildlife Biology 1997).

### Non-Federally Sensitive Species

#### **Loggerhead Shrike - *Lanius ludovicianus***

**CDFG Status:** Species of Special Concern

**Distribution:** The loggerhead shrike is distributed throughout North America.

**Habitat:** It occupies a variety of habitats, occurring wherever bushes or trees are scattered on open ground, and is found in all but the mountain areas of San Diego County.

**Natural History:** This is a fairly common breeding species in the county.

**Status on Site:** One loggerhead shrike was observed perched in the ruderal habitat on the south end of the Lemon Grove site. This species would be expected to forage over the non-native annual grasslands of STP 13.

### **3.4.3 Sensitive Habitats**

Sensitive habitats are those which are considered rare within the region or support sensitive plants or animals. The sensitive habitats on or immediately adjacent to the three sites are: Diegan coastal sage scrub, and riparian and wetland habitats (i.e., southern coastal salt marsh, southern willow riparian forest, southern willow scrub, mule fat scrub, disturbed wetlands). Riparian and wetland habitats would only be considered sensitive if these communities would qualify as wetlands under the USACOE jurisdiction (if they meet the required hydrological, vegetation, and soil criteria).

#### **Coastal Sage Scrub**

Coastal sage scrub habitat on Camp Pendleton is considered sensitive if it is occupied by the federally threatened coastal California gnatcatcher. Oberbauer and Vanderwier (1991) estimate that only about 56,000 hectares (130,000 acres) of sage scrub remain in San Diego County. This represents a 69 percent loss of this community in the County from the pre-European era. These

estimates were based on 1988 vegetation coverage estimates and additional losses have accrued since. Loss of sage scrub within California is due primarily to grazing and urbanization.

#### **Riparian and Wetland Habitats**

Riparian communities are situated along stream courses and adjacent to stream banks. Riparian communities contain wetland habitats which are defined by specific hydrological, vegetation, and soil criteria. Wetland habitats are under the jurisdiction of the USACOE pursuant to Section 404 of the Clean Water Act of 1972, as amended in 1977 and 1984.

Wetlands serve many functions including flood and sediment control, habitat for rare and common species, corridors for wildlife movement, and control of water quality and erosion. Oberbauer and Vanderwier (1991) report a reduction of 68 percent in coastal salt marsh (330 hectares [810 acres] from an original estimate of 8,377 hectares [20,700 acres]); and a reduction of 61 percent in riparian woodland (5,500 hectares [13,600 acres] from an original estimate of 14,000 hectares [34,600 acres]) in San Diego County since the pre-European era.

The loss and degradation of the riparian and wetland communities in southern California is the result of a variety of activities including the filling and draining of these habitats, clearing of riparian vegetation, water diversion and impoundment projects, grazing, channelization, increased erosion and sediment transportation, increased urban runoff, alteration of nutrient status, lowering of water tables, contamination by agricultural fertilizer and pesticide use, human recreational activities, sand and gravel mining, and the invasion of exotic species (Bowler 1990; Ferren 1987).

## 4.0 POTENTIAL EFFECTS

Biological resources may be either directly or indirectly impacted by a project. These impacts are defined below.

Permanent: Occur when impacts result in the irreversible removal of biological resources. Examples include constructing a building or permanent road on an area containing biological resources.

Temporary: Occur when impacts are considered to have reversible effects on biological resources. Examples include generation of fugitive dust during construction; or removal of vegetation for underground pipeline trenching activities, and allowing the natural vegetation to recolonize the impact area.

Direct: Occur when biological resources are altered, disturbed, or destroyed during project implementation. Examples include clearing vegetation, encroaching into wetlands, diverting surface water flows, and the loss of individual species and/or their habitats.

Indirect: Occur when project-related activities affect biological resources in a manner that are not direct. Examples include elevated noise and dust levels, soil compaction, increased human activity, decreased water quality, and the introduction of invasive wildlife (domestic cats and dogs) and plants.

For purposes of this impact analysis, a worst-case scenario was assumed in the absence of detailed project plans. It was assumed that all biological resources within the study area would be potentially directly impacted. Indirect impacts may potentially occur to biological resources adjacent to the study area.

### 4.1 **DIRECT IMPACTS**

Direct impacts to the vegetation communities within each study area are summarized below.

#### **4.1.1 Alternative 1: Discharge of Secondary Effluent at Lemon Grove in Percolation Ponds with Vertical Drains**

This alternative would use the 22-acre percolation ponds at Lemon Grove and the pipelines and pump stations designed to convey secondary effluent from STPs 1, 2, 3, 8 and 13 to the ponds. The percolation ponds at Lemon Grove are currently under construction. An array of vertical drains would be constructed within the Lemon Grove ponds in order to enhance percolation. A trench to prevent lateral flow of effluent into the Santa Margarita River is proposed within a previously disturbed area.

##### **Vegetation Communities**

Because the percolation ponds at Lemon Grove are currently under construction as described in the FEIS/R, there would not be any additional direct impacts to vegetation communities from this alternative.

##### **Sensitive Plant Species**

Because the percolation ponds at Lemon Grove are currently under construction as described in the FEIS/R, there would not be any additional direct impacts to sensitive plants from this alternative.

##### **Sensitive Animal Species**

Since the percolation ponds at Lemon Grove are currently under construction as described in the FEIS/R, there would not be any additional direct impacts to sensitive animal species (e.g., the coastal California gnatcatcher) from this alternative.

#### **4.1.2 Alternative 2: Discharge of Secondary Effluent at Lemon Grove in Percolation Ponds with Vertical Drains plus Tertiary Treatment and Reclamation of a Portion of the Effluent (Preferred Alternative)**

This alternative would be implemented in two phases. Phase 1 would provide the system of basins at the Lemon Grove site as described in the FEIS/R and for Alternative 1. Phase 2 would include the construction of an equalization basin and a tertiary treatment facility, both at STP 2, and a pipeline connection from the Headquarters West pipeline to an existing pipeline which runs to the proposed discharge pipe and outfall site at Ysidora Flats. In addition, a pipeline would be

constructed to connect the STP 1 effluent pipeline west of STP 2, with the new equalization basin within STP 2. The pipeline would cross Pilgrim Creek, and would be installed by directional drilling underneath the creek.

### **Vegetation Communities**

For Phase 1 of Alternative 2, impacts to vegetation communities would not occur, as discussed for Alternative 1.

Phase 2 would directly impact approximately 1.0 acre of ruderal habitat from the construction of an equalization basin and a tertiary treatment facility, both at STP 2, and a pipeline. The pipeline would connect the Headquarters West pipeline to an existing pipeline which runs to the proposed outfall site at Ysidora Flats. These impacts would not be significant.

The proposed dechlorination facility would be within the disturbed area at STP 2. Therefore, no additional impacts to habitat would occur.

Construction of the outfall at Ysidora Flats would not permanently impact any habitat as the existing pipe would be used to convey effluent. The outfall structure would be placed in the disturbed area of Ysidora Flats to avoid impacts to riparian vegetation. However, the added effluent surplus could potentially have an impact on the recruited riparian vegetation within the mitigation area. The added water could potentially create freshwater marsh habitat in the mitigation area or convert recruited riparian habitat into freshwater marsh. According to USACOE permits for the BRAC and Levee projects, only successful recruitment of wetlands and riparian habitats are considered acceptable impact mitigation. Multiple discharge points would be installed to dissipate effluent over a larger area and avoid scour impacts to the mitigation area.

### **Sensitive Plant Species**

There would not be any direct impacts to sensitive plant species from implementation of Phase 1 because no sensitive plant species were identified at the Lemon Grove pond site. No sensitive plant species were previously identified at STP 2, nor at the Ysidora Flats site as described in the FEIS/R. As such, there would not be any direct impacts to sensitive plant species from Phase 2 of Alternative 2.

### **Sensitive Animal Species**

No sensitive animal species have been identified at STP 2 as described in the FEIS/R. As such, there would not be any direct impacts to sensitive animal species from that portion of Phase 2 built at STP 2. No direct impacts would occur from construction of the dechlorination facility, because the facility would be sited within disturbed habitat at STP 2.

The outfall structure would not impact any riparian habitat, as this structure would be located in a disturbed area. Although no arroyo southwestern toads occur within the project area, it is likely that the BRAC/Levee projects' mitigation site will create habitat for this federally endangered species. The discharge of surplus treated effluent into the mitigation site could create potential breeding ponds for the arroyo southwestern toads downstream from the discharge points.

#### **4.1.3 Alternative 3: Partial Advanced Water Treatment (AWT) Blended with Secondary Effluent for Groundwater Recharge at Ysidora Flats**

A proposed AWT facility would be constructed at STP 13. Tertiary treated effluent would be discharged to the Ysidora Flats area to provide recharge to the groundwater and irrigation of riparian vegetation. Three to five times as much effluent could be discharged into Ysidora Flats from Alternative 3 compared to Alternative 2. Similar to Alternative 2, a discharge pipe and outfall structure would be constructed at Ysidora Flats.

### **Vegetation Communities**

As discussed for Alternative 1, there would not be any additional impacts to vegetation communities.

Construction of the AWT Plant at STP 13 would impact 0.6 acre of non-native grassland and 0.4 acre of developed area. These impacts would not be significant.

Impacts from the construction of the effluent discharge outfall would be the same as described in Alternative 2, except that the discharge volume is much greater and the discharge more regular than described for Alternative 2. Thus, there is an increased likelihood for the creation/conversion of freshwater marsh habitat in the mitigation area. This potential significant impact would be monitored.

### **Sensitive Plant Species**

No sensitive plant species were previously identified within the Lemon Grove percolation ponds in the FEIS/R. No sensitive plant species were identified during the survey of STP 13 and none would be expected to occur on this site. No sensitive plant species were previously reported from the Ysidora Flats site as described in FEIS/R. Therefore, no direct impacts to any sensitive plant species would occur from Alternative 3.

### **Sensitive Animal Species**

The percolation ponds at Lemon Grove are currently under construction. There would not be any additional direct impacts to sensitive animal species (e.g., the coastal California gnatcatcher) from this alternative that have not already been described in the FEIS/R.

No sensitive animal species were observed during the survey of STP 13. Therefore, there would not be any direct impacts to sensitive animal species from construction of the AWT facility at STP 13.

No direct impacts would occur from construction of dechlorination facility and outfall. There is an increased likelihood of impacts to arroyo southwestern toad habitat potentially being created by the Ysidora Flats mitigation site. Any impacts to arroyo southwestern toads would be similar to those described for Alternative 2, including creation of breeding ponds.

#### **4.1.4 Alternative 4: Advanced Water Treatment and Discharge in Cased Wells at Lemon Grove**

Alternative 4 includes: the construction of an AWT facility adjacent to STP 13; the construction of an equalization basin south of STP 13; use of the percolation ponds at Lemon Grove as described in Alternative 1; and the construction of 11 cased, gravity injection wells to allow the effluent to flow to the groundwater. These wells would be located on the perimeter of the percolation ponds, or in areas between the ponds.

### **Vegetation Communities**

Potential impacts to vegetation communities would be similar to the impacts discussed for Alternative 1.



Construction of the AWT Plant and equalization basin at STP 13 would impact 0.6 acres of non-native grassland and 0.4 acre of developed area. These impacts would not be significant.

#### **Sensitive Plant Species**

No sensitive plant species were previously identified within the Lemon Grove percolation ponds in the FEIS/R. No sensitive plant species were identified during the survey of STP 13, and none would be expected to occur on this site. Therefore, no direct impacts to any sensitive plant species would occur from Alternative 4.

#### **Sensitive Animal Species**

The percolation ponds at Lemon Grove are currently under construction. There would not be any additional direct impacts to sensitive animal species (e.g. the coastal California gnatcatcher) from this alternative that have not already been described in the FEIS/R. This impact would not be significant.

No sensitive animal species were observed during the survey of STP 13. Therefore, there would not be any direct impacts to sensitive animal species from construction of the AWT facility and equalization basin at STP 13.

#### **4.1.5 Alternative 5: Advanced Water Treatment with Irrigation of Agricultural Fields and Discharge in Cased Wells**

Alternative 5 includes: the construction of an AWT facility adjacent to STP 13; the construction of an equalization basin south of STP 13 both as described in Alternative 4; use of the percolation ponds at Lemon Grove as described in Alternative 1; the construction of 11 cased, gravity injection wells as described in Alternative 4; and the construction of a pump station and approximately 7,000 feet of piping to convey the effluent to an existing irrigation reservoir. The pipeline will be placed within existing roadways and/or hung from an existing bridge which crosses the Santa Margarita River, to avoid impacts to sensitive biological resources. The treated effluent would be used for crop irrigation.

### **Vegetation Communities**

Potential impacts to vegetation communities would be similar to the impacts discussed for Alternative 1.

Construction of the AWT Plant and equalization basin at STP 13 would impact 0.6 acres of non-native grassland and 0.4 acre of developed area. These impacts would not be significant.

### **Sensitive Plant Species**

No sensitive plant species were previously identified within the Lemon Grove percolation ponds in the FEIS/R. No sensitive plant species were identified during the survey of STP 13 and none would be expected to occur on this site. Therefore, no direct impacts to any sensitive plant species would occur from Alternative 5.

### **Sensitive Animal Species**

The percolation ponds at Lemon Grove are currently under construction. There would not be any additional direct impacts to sensitive animal species (e.g., the coastal California gnatcatcher) from this alternative that have not already been described in the FEIS/R. This impact would not be significant.

No sensitive animal species were observed during the survey of STP 13. Therefore, there would not be any direct impacts to sensitive animal species from construction of the AWT facility and equalization basin at STP 13.

#### **4.1.6 No Action Alternative**

With the No Action Alternative, there would not be any construction of vertical drains, AWT plants, cased wells, or live stream discharge systems as described in the proposed action alternatives. Effluent would be conveyed to the percolation ponds at Lemon Grove in the system now being constructed. Disposal would be by percolation and evaporation. When the Lemon Grove ponds fill and the rate of effluent generation exceeds the percolation/evaporation rate, effluent could be stored at or near the individual plants in the ponds now used for storage and percolation and planned for abandonment. When all storage ponds are full, excess effluent would be discharged to the Santa

Margarita River adjacent to the Lemon Grove Ponds. The No Action Alternative would result in continued violation of the Basin Plan.

#### **Vegetation Communities**

No direct impacts to vegetation communities would occur from this alternative.

#### **Sensitive Plant Species**

Southwestern spiny rush (*Juncus acutus* ssp. *leopoldii*) is known from the Santa Margarita River Estuary. No significant impacts would occur from the No Action Alternative as this species occurs across broad environmental gradients. No other sensitive plant species are known to occur within the area of influence for the No Action Alternative.

#### **Sensitive Animal Species**

No impacts to sensitive animal species would occur from the No Action Alternative.

### **4.2 INDIRECT IMPACTS**

Indirect impacts could potentially occur from implementation of the proposed action through increased noise and erosion, and a decrease in water quality during construction. These indirect impacts are of potential concern for the federally listed endangered least Bell's vireo, southwestern willow flycatcher, and arroyo southwestern toad. These potential indirect impacts would be considered significant but mitigable.

#### **4.2.1 Alternative 1: Discharge of Secondary Effluent at Lemon Grove in Percolation Ponds with Vertical Drains**

#### **Vegetation Communities**

A salt marsh is located at the toe of the bluffs at the northern boundary of the Lemon Grove site. If effluent from the proposed ponds with vertical drains reaches the salt marsh, this community could be impacted by altered salinity. Large influxes of fresh water could decrease the salinity of the salt marsh, potentially altering the species composition. Changes in the composition of the salt marsh

could potentially be a significant impact depending upon the extent of changes. In order to avoid this potentially significant impact, a barrier trench has been incorporated into the design of the Lemon Grove pond area.

### **Sensitive Animal Species**

Construction activities would be timed to avoid the breeding season of the least Bell's vireo and the coastal California gnatcatcher. Therefore, there would not be any indirect noise impacts to these species from the proposed project.

#### **4.2.2 Alternative 2: Discharge of Secondary Effluent at Lemon Grove in Percolation Ponds with Vertical Drains plus Tertiary Treatment and Reclamation of a Portion of the Effluent (Preferred Alternative)**

### **Vegetation Communities**

Indirect impacts could arise from the discharge of effluent at the BRAC/Levee mitigation area at Ysidora Flats. Indirect impacts from the increased effluent discharge and increased nutrient loading could adversely affect the habitat being created. Discharge of too much effluent could convert the mitigation area from willow woodland to freshwater marsh. Similarly, increasing the nutrients on the site could shift the competitive balance from native species to non-native species. Conversion of habitat type and/or increasing the presence of non-native species as a result of effluent discharge would be a significant impact.

### **Sensitive Animal Species**

Construction activities would be timed to avoid the breeding season of the least Bell's vireo, southwestern willow flycatcher and the coastal California gnatcatcher. Therefore, there would not be any indirect noise impacts to these species from the proposed project.

**4.2.3 Alternative 3: Partial Advanced Water Treatment (AWT) Blended with Secondary Effluent for Groundwater Recharge at Ysidora Flats**

**Vegetation Communities**

Since the ponds at Lemon Grove are a component of Alternative 3, indirect impacts are described for Alternative 1 in Section 4.2.1. Similarly, the indirect impacts associated with the discharge of effluent at Ysidora Flats described for Alternative 2 in Section 4.2.2 would also be similar. However, since the amount of discharge under the Alternative 3 scenario is on a magnitude of almost five times the amount of proposed discharge under Alternative 2, the likelihood of significant indirect impacts to the mitigation site would be greater under Alternative 3.

**Sensitive Animal Species**

Construction activities would be timed to avoid the breeding season of the least Bell's vireo, southwestern willow flycatcher and the coastal California gnatcatcher. Therefore, there would not be any indirect noise impacts to these species from the proposed project.

**4.2.4 Alternative 4: Advanced Water Treatment and Discharge in Cased Wells at Lemon Grove**

**Sensitive Animal Species**

Construction activities would be timed to avoid the breeding season of the least Bell's vireo, southwestern willow flycatcher and the coastal California gnatcatcher. Therefore, there would not be any indirect noise impacts to these species from the proposed project.

**4.2.5 Alternative 5: Advanced Water Treatment with Irrigation of Agricultural Fields and Discharge in Cased Wells**

**Sensitive Animal Species**

Construction activities would be timed to avoid the breeding season of the least Bell's vireo (March 15 to September 30), southwestern willow flycatcher (May 1 to September 15) and the coastal

California gnatcatcher (February 15 to August 30). Therefore, there would not be any indirect noise impacts to these species from the proposed project.

#### **4.2.6 No Action Alternative**

##### **Vegetation Communities**

Indirect impacts would result from the lowering of the groundwater table at STP 3 which is addressed in the previous FEIS/R and the Programmatic Groundwater/Riparian Habitat Assessment (MCB Camp Pendleton ESO 1995). Indirect impacts to the riparian and wetland (including salt marsh) communities of the lower Santa Margarita River and Estuary could potentially arise from increases in the hydrological regime, decreases in salinity and increases in nitrogen and phosphorus loading. Impacts to salt marsh habitat would be considered significant by the resources agencies.

##### **Sensitive Plant Species**

Southwestern spiny rush (*Juncus acutus* ssp. *leopoldii*) is known from the Santa Margarita River Estuary. Indirect impacts, as described above, are not considered significant as this species occurs across broad environmental gradients. No other sensitive plant species are known to occur within the area of influence for the No Action Alternative.

##### **Sensitive Animal Species**

Although changes in the saltmarsh ecosystem would be expected from nutrient loading and a decrease in salinity, no impacts to sensitive wildlife species would occur from the No Action Alternative. The federal endangered tidewater goby (*Eucycogobius newberryi*) is believed extirpated from the site since floods in 1993 (San Marino Environmental Associates 1994).

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## **5.0 MITIGATION MEASURES**

### **5.1 GENERAL MITIGATION REQUIREMENTS**

#### **5.1.1 Best Management Practices**

The following general mitigation measures would apply to all construction activities. These measures are standard Best Management Practices (BMPs) to prevent environmental degradation during construction.

1. Provision would be made to inform the construction contractor(s) about the biological constraints of this project. All sensitive habitat areas to be avoided should be clearly marked on project maps provided to the contractor. These areas would be designated as "no construction" zones. These areas would be flagged by the project biologist prior to the onset of construction activities. In some cases, resources may need to be fenced or otherwise protected from direct or indirect impacts.
2. A contractor education program would be implemented to ensure that contractors and all construction personnel are fully informed of the biological resources associated with this project. This program would focus on (a) the purpose for resource protection; (b) contractor identification of sensitive resource areas in the field (e.g., areas delineated on maps and by flags or fencing); (c) sensitive construction practices (see numbers 3 through 10, below); (d) protocol to resolve conflicts that may arise at any time during the construction process; and (e) ramifications of noncompliance. This program would be conducted by a qualified biologist, and would be a requirement for all construction personnel.
3. Activities within drainages or other wetland areas (other than in the construction zone) include staging areas, equipment access, and disposal or temporary placement of excess fill would be prohibited.
4. Vehicles would use existing access roads to the degree feasible. Where new access is required, all vehicles would use the same route. All access routes outside of existing roads or the construction corridor would be clearly marked (i.e., flagged and/or staked) prior to the



onset of construction. All access roads outside of existing roads or the construction corridor would be delineated on the grading plans and reviewed by a qualified biologist.

5. Topsoil would be stockpiled in disturbed areas presently lacking native vegetation. Stockpile areas would be delineated on the grading plans and reviewed by a qualified biologist.
6. Fueling of equipment would take place within existing paved roads and not within or adjacent to drainages or native habitats. Contractor equipment would be checked for leaks prior to operation and repaired as necessary. "No-fueling zones" would be designated on construction maps and would be situated a minimum distance of 50 feet from all drainages.
7. Construction in or adjacent to sensitive areas would be appropriately scheduled to minimize potential impacts to biological resources.
8. Erosion and siltation of offsite areas during construction would be minimized. An erosion control plan would be required of the contractor. The project engineer would be responsible for ensuring that the erosion control plan is developed and implemented. The Plan would include the use of hay bales, silt fences, siltation basins, or other devices necessary to stabilize the soil in denuded or graded areas during the construction and revegetation phases of the project.
9. A site restoration plan would be prepared and implemented for all areas where vegetation would be temporarily removed for construction. The plan would detail appropriate plant mixes and methods for reestablishing native vegetation consistent with pre-existing vegetation communities. Plan preparation would be coordinated with the USFWS and the Camp Pendleton Assistant Chief of Staff, Environmental Security (AC/S ES), Land Management Branch.

## 5.2 RESOURCE-SPECIFIC MITIGATION MEASURES

### 5.2.1 Coastal California Gnatcatcher

Potential indirect noise impacts to coastal California gnatcatcher from ambient noise levels within the species' nesting habitat would be avoided through timing of construction. Construction would

be scheduled to coincide with the non-breeding season of the coastal California gnatcatcher (August 31 through February 14).

### **5.2.2 Least Bell's Vireo and Southwestern Willow Flycatcher**

Potential indirect noise impacts to least Bell's vireo and southwestern willow flycatcher from ambient noise levels within the species' nesting habitat would be avoided through timing of construction. Construction would be scheduled to coincide with the non-breeding season of the least Bell's vireo and the flycatcher (September 1 through March 14).

## **5.3 ALTERNATIVE-SPECIFIC MITIGATION MEASURES**

### **5.3.1 Alternative 1: Discharge of Secondary Effluent at Lemon Grove in Percolation Ponds with Vertical Drains**

There would be no additional mitigation measures for this alternative other than the BMPs outlined in Section 5.1 (BMPs) and the resource-specific mitigation measures outlined in Section 5.2.

### **5.3.2 Alternative 2: Discharge of Secondary Effluent at Lemon Grove in Percolation Ponds with Vertical Drains plus Tertiary Treatment and Reclamation of a Portion of the Effluent (Preferred Alternative)**

In addition to the BMPs discussed in Section 5.1 and the resource-specific mitigation measures outlined in Section 5.2, the following additional measures would be implemented for Alternative 2:

1. The discharge of tertiary treated effluent to the Santa Margarita River at Ysidora Flats shall be designed and implemented as allowed in an appropriate NPDES in accordance with the mitigation measure for Hydrology and Water Quality Impacts in Section 4.1.2.
2. In accordance with the Biological Opinion (BO 1-6-95-F-02) for Programmatic Activities in Riparian and Estuarine/Beach Ecosystems on Camp Pendleton (USFWS 1995b), the mitigation site at Ysidora Flats would be designed and monitored in conjunction with long-term monitoring programs for the BRAC/Levee projects:

- A. The proposed outfall or discharge system would be designed such that water would be evenly distributed over the mitigation site to avoid creation of ponded areas and freshwater marsh at the discharge point(s).
- B. Hydrology (groundwater and surface water) would be monitored to determine hydrological adequacy for the establishment of a riparian wetlands ecosystem. Hydrological adequacy would be evaluated according to the performance criteria of the draft Santa Margarita Hydrogeomorphic (HGM) guidebook established for the mitigation site. Monitoring results would be included in annual monitoring reports for the BRAC/Levee mitigation projects.
- C. Nutrient content in soil and water would be monitored to determine chemical adequacy for the establishment of a riparian wetlands ecosystem. Adequacy of nutrient content would be evaluated according to the performance criteria of the draft Santa Margarita HGM guidebook established for the mitigation site. Monitoring results would be included in annual reports for the BRAC/Levee mitigation projects.
- D. Species recruitment would be monitored for five years following the outfall installation and evaluated against the riparian ecosystem establishment criteria (according to the draft Santa Margarita HGM guidebook). Monitoring results would be included in annual reports for the BRAC/Levee mitigation projects.
- E. Exotic invasive weeds would be monitored and controlled, with the target not to exceed five percent relative cover of the site after five years and twelve consecutive months of monitoring. Monitoring results would be included in annual monitoring reports for the BRAC/Levee mitigation projects.
- F. Potential colonization of arroyo southwestern toads in the area would be monitored. Monitoring results would be included in annual reports for the BRAC/Levee mitigation projects.
- G. Remediation measures would include lowering the effluent volume at the discharge points to prevent the establishment of freshwater marsh habitats in place of willow woodland.

**5.3.3 Alternative 3: Partial Advanced Water Treatment (AWT) Blended with Secondary Effluent for Groundwater Recharge at Ysidora Flats**

In addition to the BMPs discussed in Section 5.1 and the resource-specific mitigation measures outlined in Section 5.2, the mitigation measures for effluent discharge at Ysidora Flats would be implemented as required for Alternative 2.

**5.3.4 Alternative 4: Advanced Water Treatment and Discharge in Cased Wells at Lemon Grove**

Mitigation measures for this alternative would include the BMPs discussed in Section 5.1 and the resource-specific mitigation measures outlined in Section 5.2.

**5.3.5 Alternative 5: Advanced Water Treatment with Irrigation of Agricultural Fields and Discharge in Cased Wells**

Mitigation measures for this alternative would include the BMPs discussed in Section 5.1 and the resource-specific mitigation measures outlined in Section 5.2.

**5.3.6 No Action Alternative**

Potential indirect impacts to salt marsh habitat within the Santa Margarita Estuary from a decrease in salinity and potential nutrient loading would be mitigated by a long-term monitoring program to include hydrological and soil testing for changes in nutrient and salinity levels, and vegetation and wildlife sampling to note changes in such parameters as species composition and distribution. Potential surface water and estuary habitat impacts could be mitigated by implementation of Alternatives 1, 2, 3, 4, or 5, or a combination thereof which would achieve the purpose and need of the proposed project.

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## 6.0 CUMULATIVE EFFECTS

Cumulative effects are the additive direct and indirect impacts to biological resources resulting in implementation of all foreseeable projects within the region, as defined by the Base boundary of Camp Pendleton. Development of the study area would directly impact sensitive biological resources including Diegan coastal sage scrub/coastal California gnatcatcher habitat, vernal pools/San Diego fairy shrimp habitat, arroyo southwestern toad, and potentially Pacific pocket mouse. In addition, construction of the project may result in impacts in the form of increased siltation or sedimentation into the Santa Margarita River, which is known to support a breeding population of arroyo southwestern toad, as well as potentially increasing ambient noise levels within nesting habitat of the least Bell's vireo and the southwestern willow flycatcher. These impacts to federally listed species are considered significant. However, since all federal actions affecting federally listed species within the region are subject to consultation by the USFWS and would be mitigated, any approved federal action is not considered to be cumulatively significant regarding these species.

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**ATTACHMENT A**  
**PLANT INVENTORY**

**ATTACHMENT A**  
**FLORAL SPECIES LIST**

<u>Class/SubClass</u>	<u>Family</u>	<u>Scientific Name/Common Name</u>
<b>ANGIOSPERMAE</b>		
<b>Dicotyledoneae</b>		
	Aizoaceae - Carpet-Weed Family	
		<i>Carpobrotus edulis</i> Hottentot Fig
		<i>Tetragonia tetragonioides</i> New Zealand Spinach
	Anacardiaceae - Sumac Family	
		<i>Malosma laurina</i> Laurel Sumac
		<i>Rhus integrifolia</i> Lemonadeberry
		<i>Schinus molle</i> Peruvian Pepper Tree
		<i>Schinus terebinthifolius</i> Brazilian Pepper Tree
	Apiaceae - Carrot Family	
		<i>Foeniculum vulgare</i> Fennel
	Asteraceae - Sunflower Family	
		<i>Ambrosia psilostachya</i> Western Ragweed
		<i>Baccharis pilularis</i> var. <i>consanguinea</i> Coyote Brush
		<i>Baccharis salicifolia</i> Mule Fat
		<i>Gnaphalium bicolor</i> Bicolor cudweed
		<i>Heterotheca grandiflora</i> Telegraph Weed
		<i>Isocoma menziesii</i> var. <i>vernonioides</i> Coastal Isocoma
		<i>Jaumea carnosa</i> Salty Susan
		<i>Lactuca sativa</i>
		<i>Lessingia filaginifolia</i> var. <i>virgata</i> Virgate Cudweed-Sand-Aster
		<i>Senecio vulgaris</i> Common Groundsel
		<i>Xanthium strumarium</i> var. <i>canadense</i> Eastern Cocklebur
	Boraginaceae - Borage Family	
		<i>Heliotropium curassavicum</i> Chinese Pusley
	Brassicaceae - Mustard Family	
		<i>Cakile maritima</i> Sea Rocket
		<i>Hirschfeldia incana</i> Perennial Mustard
		<i>Raphanus sativus</i> Radish
	Cactaceae - Cactus Family	
		<i>Opuntia littoralis</i> Coastal Prickly-pear
		<i>Opuntia parryi</i> var. <i>parryi</i> Cane Cholla
	Capparaceae - Caper Family	
		<i>Isomeris arborea</i> Bladderpod
	Caprifoliaceae - Honeysuckle Family	
		<i>Sambucus mexicana</i> Blue Elderberry

<u>Class/SubClass</u>	<u>Family</u>	<u>Scientific Name/Common Name</u>
	Chenopodiaceae - Goosefoot Family	
		<i>Atriplex semibaccata</i> Australian Saltbush
		<i>Salicornia subterminalis</i> Parish's Glasswort
		<i>Salsola tragus</i> Russian-Thistle, Tumbleweed
		<i>Suaeda taxifolia</i> Woolly Sea-Blight
	Crassulaceae -Stone-Crop Family	
		<i>Dudleya pulverulenta</i> ssp. <i>pulverulenta</i> Chalk Lettuce
	Curcubitaceae - Gourd Family	
		<i>Marah macrocarpus</i> var. <i>macrocarpus</i> Wild Cucumber
	Euphorbiaceae -Spurge Family	
		<i>Croton californicus</i> Croton
		<i>Ricinus communis</i> Castor Bean
	Fabaceae - Pea Family	
		<i>Acacia</i> sp. Wattle
		<i>Lotus scoparius</i> var. <i>scoparius</i> Coastal Deerweed
		<i>Trifolium</i> sp. Clover
	Frankeniaceae - Frankenia Family	
		<i>Frankenia salina</i> Alkali Heath
	Lamiaceae - Mint Family	
		<i>Marrubium vulgare</i> Horehound
	Lythraceae - Loosestrife Family	
		<i>Lythrum hyssopifolia</i> Grass Poly
	Malvaceae - Mallow Family	
		<i>Malvella leprosa</i> Alkali Mallow
	Myoporaceae - Myoporum Family	
		<i>Myoporum laetum</i> Myoporum
	Myrtaceae - Myrtle Family	
		<i>Eucalyptus</i> sp. Eucalyptus
	Nyctaginaceae - Four O'Clock Family	
		<i>Mirabilis californica</i> Wishbone Bush
	Onagraceae - Evening Primrose Family	
		<i>Camissonia cheiranthifolia</i> ssp. <i>suffruticosa</i> Beach Evening Primrose
	Plantaginaceae - Plantain Family	
		<i>Plantago elongata</i> Plantain
		<i>Plantago ovata</i> Wooly Plantain
	Plumbaginaceae - Leadwort Family	
		<i>Limonium perezii</i> Statice
	Polygonaceae - Buckwheat Family	
		<i>Rumex crispus</i> Curly Dock
	Rosaceae - Rose Family	
		<i>Heteromeles arbutifolia</i> Toyon



<u>Class/SubClass</u>	<u>Family</u>	<u>Scientific Name/Common Name</u>
	Salicaceae - Willow Family	
		<i>Salix exigua</i> Narrow-Leaved Willow
		<i>Salix gooddingii</i> Goodding's Black Willow
		<i>Salix lasiolepis</i> Arroyo Willow
	Solanaceae - Nightshade Family	
		<i>Datura wrightii</i> Jimson Weed
		<i>Lycium californicum</i> California Box-Thorn
		<i>Nicotiana glauca</i> Tree Tobacco
	Tamaricaceae -Tamarisk Family	
		<i>Tamarix</i> sp. Tamarisk
	Urticaceae - Nettle Family	
		<i>Urtica dioica</i> ssp.holosericea Stinging Nettle
		<i>Urtica urens</i> Dwarf Nettle

## Monocotyledoneae

	Cyperaceae -Sedge Family	
		<i>Cyperus</i> sp. Umbrella Sedge
		<i>Eleocharis macrostachya</i> Pale Spikerush
	Juncaceae - Rush Family	
		<i>Juncus</i> sp. Rush
	Poaceae - Grass Family	
		<i>Arundo donax</i> Giant Reed
		<i>Avena barbata</i> Slender Wild Oat
		<i>Cynodon dactylon</i> Bermuda Grass
		<i>Distichlis spicata</i> Saltgrass
		<i>Nasella pulchra</i> Purple Needlegrass
		<i>Orcuttia californica</i> California Orcutt Grass
		<i>Pennisetum setaceum</i> Fountain Grass

**ATTACHMENT B**

**WILDLIFE INVENTORY**

**ATTACHMENT B  
WILDLIFE SPECIES LIST**

**Scientific Name**

**Common Name**

**INVERTEBRATES**

**Phylum: Arthropoda**

**Class: Insecta**

**Order: Lepidoptera**

*Danaus plexippus*

**Butterflies**

monarch butterfly

**VERTEBRATES**

**REPTILES AND AMPHIBIANS\*\***

**Order Salientia**

Family Hylidae

*Hyla cadaverina*

**Frogs and Toads**

California treefrog

**Order Squamata**

Family Iguanidae

*Sceloporus occidentalis*

**Lizards and Snakes**

western fence lizard

**BIRDS\***

**Order Ciconiiformes**

Family Ardeidae

*Ardea herodias*

**Herons, Storks, Ibises, and Relatives**

great blue heron

**Order Anseriformes**

Family Anatidae

*Lophodytes cucullatus*

**Screamers, Ducks, and Relatives**

hooded merganser

**Order Falconiformes**

Family Cathartidae

*Cathartes aura*

**Vultures, Hawks, and Falcons**

turkey vulture

Family Accipitridae

*Pandion haliaetus*

*Elanus leucurus majusculus*

*Accipiter cooperi*

*Buteo jamaicensis*

osprey

white-tailed kite

Cooper's hawk

red-tailed hawk

**Scientific Name****Common Name****Order Charadriiformes****Shorebirds, Gulls, and Relatives**

## Family Charadriidae

*Charadrius vociferus*

killdeer

## Family Recurvirostridae

*Himantopus mexicanus*

black-necked stilt

## Family Laridae

*Larus* sp.

gull

**Order Columbiformes****Pigeons and Doves**

## Family Columbidae

*Zenaida macroura*

mourning dove

**Order Apodiformes****Swifts and Hummingbirds**

## Family Trochilidae

*Calypte anna*

Anna's hummingbird

*Calypte costae*

Costa's hummingbird

**Order Passeriformes****Perching Birds**

## Family Tyrannidae

*Sayornis nigricans*

black phoebe

*Tyrannus vociferans*

Cassin's kingbird

## Family Corvidae

*Aphelocoma coerulescens*

scrub jay

*Corvus brachyrhynchos*

American crow

*Corvus corax*

common raven

## Family Aegithalidae

*Psaltiriparus minimus*

bushtit

## Family Troglodytidae

*Thryomanes bewickii*

Bewick's wren

*Cistothorus palustris*

marsh wren

## Family Muscicapidae

*Poliophtila californica californica* coastal California gnatcatcher

## Family Mimidae

*Mimus polyglottos*

northern mockingbird

## Family Laniidae

*Lanius ludovicianus*

loggerhead shrike

**Scientific Name****Common Name****Family Sturnidae***Sturnus vulgaris*

European starling

**Family Emberizidae***Dendroica coronata*

yellow-rumped warbler

*Pipilo crissalis*

California towhee

*Zonotrichia leucophrys*

white-crowned sparrow

*Carpodacus mexicanus*

house finch

*Carduelis psaltria*

lesser goldfinch

**MAMMALS\*****Order Lagomorpha***Sylvilagus audubonii***Rabbits, Hares, and Pikas**

Audubon's cottontail

**Order Carnivora****Carnivores****Family Canidae***Canis latrans*

coyote

*Canis familiaris*

domestic dog

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**APPENDIX C**  
**RECORD OF NON-APPLICABILITY (RONA) AND**  
**AIR QUALITY CALCULATIONS**

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UNITED STATES MARINE CORPS  
MARINE CORPS BASE  
BOX 353010  
CAMP PENDLETON CALIFORNIA 92055-0010

IN REPLY REFER TO  
5090.6  
ENVSEC/425  
11 AUG 1998

From: Commanding General, Marine Corps Base, Camp Pendleton  
To: Commandant of the Marine Corps (LFL), Headquarters, U.S.  
Marine Corps, 2 Navy Annex, Washington, D.C. 20390-1775

Subj: RECORD OF NON-APPLICABILITY FOR MILCON PROJECT P-2576

Ref: (a) Draft Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement, Sewage  
Effluent Compliance Project, Lower Santa Margarita Basin,  
Marine Corps Base, Camp Pendleton, dated July 1998

1. Pursuant to section 176(c) of the Clean Air Act, 42 U.S.C. § 7401, et seq. (1990); the General Conformity Rule at 40 C.F.R. Parts 51 and 93; and the Department of the Navy (DoN) policy regarding compliance with the requirements of the Clean Air Act General Conformity Rule, the DoN has determined that this project is exempt from a conformity determination based upon 40 C.F.R. §§ 51.853(d)(4) and 93.153(d)(4). These provisions state that a conformity determination is not required for actions "... as specifically required by new or existing environmental legislation or environmental regulations ..." Further, guidance from the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) on this exemption provides that a wastewater treatment plant under the Clean Water Act is exempt, unless the upgrade involves an increase in capacity. The proposed action to dispose of effluent from Marine Corps Base, Camp Pendleton sewage treatment plants 1, 2, 3, 8, and 13, by any of the five alternative methods described in the reference, is exempt because the action is required to conform to the Clean Water Act and regulations of the EPA and the California State Water Resources Control Board, and does not involve an increase in capacity. Nevertheless, the DoN conducted a conformity applicability analysis of the air emissions associated with this project.

2. The conformity applicability analysis for this project establishes that the projected air emissions of the criteria pollutants of concern associated with the action will be below the applicable de minimis thresholds and will not be regionally significant. Therefore, the subject project is presumed to be exempt from full conformity determinations under the General Conformity Rule, 40 C.F.R. sections 93.153(c)(1) and (i). Sections 3.8, 4.8, 5.2.2, and Appendix (C) of reference (a) provide summaries of the assumptions, methodologies, and calculations that support this determination. This conformity review concludes that the total project emissions of criteria pollutants resulting from the proposed project will not exceed the de minimis thresholds specified in the EPA regulations.

  
C. W. REINKE

P-527B SEIS  
Air Quality

		Emissions - pounds/day																				
Activity/Equipment	No. gas	No. diesel	Hrs/ Day	Days/ Year	CO				ROC				NOx				SOx				PM <sub>10</sub>	
Alt 1					G	D	G	D	G	D	G	D	G	D	G	D	G	D	G	D		
Drains & trench																						
Fork Lift - 50 HP						0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0		
Fork Lift - 175 HP						0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0		
Truck - off highway						0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0		
Tracked loader						0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0		
Tracked tractor=backhoe		1	6	15		0	2.1	0	0.72	0	7.56	0	0.84	0	0.672							
Scraper						0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0		
Wheeled dozer						0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0		
Wheeled loader						0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0		
Wheeled tractor						0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0		
Roller						0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0		
Motor Grader						0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0		
Miscellaneous-Hydropuller, Hydrostat		1	6	22		0	4.05	0	0.9	0	10.2	0	0.858	0	0.84							
Light trucks - G or D	1		4	45		3			0.352		0.628				0.044							
Crew commute	trip/day	mi/trip	-	-																		
	10	20	-	45	2.9826				0.2259		0.198				0.046							
Fugitive Dust - PM10 Unmitigated			Hrs/ Day	Days/ Year	silt	moisture	wind	truck wt(T)	truck speed									PM <sub>10</sub>	PM <sub>2.5</sub>			
Grading/earth moving					30	12	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	0	0	0		
Material handling	yd <sup>3</sup> /day		-		-	6	7.7	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	0	0	0		
Exposed graded areas	Acre		-															0	0	0		
Storage piles	Acre		-																			
Trucks/paved roads	mi/trip																					
Trucks/unpaved roads	trip/day	10	5	22	15	-	-	15	-	15	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	33.14	14.5			
Totals		0.33	5	30	20	0.25	-	10	15									9.747	1.462			
	pounds/year				390			57										PM <sub>10</sub>	PM <sub>2.5</sub>			
	Tons/year				0.19			0.03										1054	363			
																		0.53	0.18			



P-527B SEIS  
Air Quality

Activity/Equipment	No. gas	No. diesel	Hrs/Day	Days/Year	Emissions - pounds/day											
					CO			ROC			NOx			SOx		
					G	D		G	D		G	D		G	D	PM <sub>10</sub>
Alt 2 ph 2																
AWT STP2 + YF																
Fork Lift - 50 HP					0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Fork Lift - 175 HP					0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Truck - off highway		1	4	5	0	7.2	0	0.76	0	16.68	0	1.8	0	1.8	0	1.04
Tracked loader					0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Tracked tractor=backhoe		1	6	10	0	2.1	0	0.72	0	7.56	0	0.84	0	0.84	0	0.672
Scraper					0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Wheeled dozer					0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Wheeled loader					0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Wheeled tractor=Crane					0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Roller					0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Motor Grader					0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Miscellaneous					0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
SCAQMD industrial	Ksqft=	20														
Light trucks - G or D	1		4	20	3			0.352		0.628						0.044
Crew commute	trip/day	mi/trip	--													
	10	20	--	20	2.9826			0.2259		0.198						0.046
Fugitive Dust - PM10			Hrs/Day	Days/Year	silt	moisture	wind	truck wt(T)	truck speed							PM <sub>10</sub> PM <sub>2.5</sub>
Grading/earth moving			4	5	30	12	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	20.14 6.154
Material handling	yd <sup>3</sup> /day		--		--	6	7.7	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	0 0
Exposed graded areas	Acre		--													0 0
Storage piles	Acre		--													
Trucks/paved roads	mi/trip, trip/day				1	--	--	15	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	0 0
Trucks/unpaved roads					20	0.25	--	10	15	--	--	--	--	--	--	0 0
Totals																
	pounds/year				2272			678		9813		17				PM <sub>10</sub> PM <sub>2.5</sub>
	Tons/year				1.14			0.34		4.91		0.009				799 31
																0.4 0.02

P-527 SEIS  
Air Quality

Activity/Equipment	No. gas	No. diesel	Hrs/Day	Days/Year	Emissions - pounds/day											
					CO			ROC			NOx			SOx		
					G	D		G	D		G	D		G	D	
Alt 3																
AWT STP13 + YF + pipe																
Fork Lift - 50 HP																
Fork Lift - 175 HP																
Truck - off highway		1	4	5			7.2		0	0.76		0	16.68		0	1.04
Tracked loader																
Tracked tractor=backhoe		1	6	35												
Scraper																
Wheeled dozer																
Wheeled loader																
Wheeled tractor=Crane																
Roller																
Motor Grader																
Miscellaneous																
SCAQMD industrial		40														
Light trucks - G or D			4	70					0.352				0.628			0.044
Crew commute																
		20	20	70	5.9652				0.4518				0.396			0.093
Fugitive Dust - PM10																
Unmitigated																
Grading/earth moving			4	25		30	12									
Material handling																
Exposed graded areas																
Storage piles																
Trucks/paved roads		25	4	35		1										
Trucks/unpaved roads						20	0.25									
Totals																
	pounds/year				4929				1397				19695		38	2310
	Tons/year				2.46				0.70				9.85		0.019	1.15
																0.16

## aq7-98.xls

9/8/98

P-527B SEIS  
Air Quality

Activity/Equipment	No. gas	No. diesel	Hrs/Day	Days/Year	Emissions - pounds/day											
					CO				ROC				NOx			
					G	D	G	D	G	D	G	D	G	D	G	D
Alt 6																
piping only (add to alt 4)																
Fork Lift - 50 HP						0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Fork Lift - 175 HP						0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Truck - off highway	1	4	5			0	7.2	0	0.76	0	16.68	0	1.8	0	1.04	0
Tracked loader						0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Tracked tractor=backhoe																
Scraper	1	6	20			0	2.1	0	0.72	0	7.56	0	0.84	0	0.672	0
Wheeled dozer						0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Wheeled loader						0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Wheeled tractor=Crane						0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Roller						0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Motor Grader						0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Miscellaneous						0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
SCAQMD industrial	Ksqft=															
Light trucks - G or D	1	4	40			3		0.352			0.628				0.044	
Crew commute	trip/day	mi/trip														
	20	20		40	5.9652			0.4518			0.396				0.093	
Fugitive Dust - PM10																
Unmitigated			Hrs/Day	Days/Year	silt	moisture	wind	truck wt(T)	truck speed						PM <sub>10</sub>	PM <sub>2.5</sub>
Grading/earth moving					30	12	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	0	0
Material handling	yd <sup>3</sup> /day		—		—	6	7.7	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	0	0
Exposed graded areas	Acre		—												0	0
Storage piles	Acre		—													
Trucks/paved roads	mi/trip		4	20	1	—	—	15	—	—	—	—	—	—	11.4	4.988
Trucks/unpaved roads	trip/day	25			20	0.25	—	10	15						0	0
Totals																
	pounds/year				437			50			276		26		252.1	100
	Tons/year				0.22			0.03			0.14		0.013		0.13	0.05

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**APPENDIX D**  
**FEIS/R RECORD OF DECISION**

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DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE  
Department of the Navy

Record of decision to implement the sewage effluent compliance project for the Santa Margarita River basin of Marine Corps Base, Camp Pendleton, California

Pursuant to Section 102(c) of the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) of 1969, and the Council on Environmental Quality Regulations (40 CFR parts 1500-1508), the Department of the Navy announces its decision to upgrade the wastewater treatment and disposal systems in the Santa Margarita River Basin of Marine Corps Base (MCB), Camp Pendleton, California. Upgrades in the Santa Margarita River Basin include the construction of a series of wastewater discharge flow percolation/equalization ponds inland from the coastline, and a connecting pipeline, approximately 98,000 total lineal feet, to connect percolation/equalization ponds serving sewage treatment plants 1, 2, 3, 8 and 13 to the La Salina ocean outfall, which is owned and operated by the City of Oceanside. The project will be constructed in two phases. Phase one includes construction of new infrastructure linking facilities on Camp Pendleton. Phase

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two includes pipeline construction from the percolation/equalization ponds on Camp Pendleton to the La Salina Oceanside ocean outfall, as well as authorize execution of the utility service agreement contract with the City of Oceanside for the use of the outfall.

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Sewage treatment plants 3 and 8 were constructed in the 1940's and currently discharge secondary treated effluent to percolation basins adjacent to the sewage treatment plants within a beneficial use portion of the lower Santa Margarita River Basin. Sewage treatment plant 1 was constructed in the 1940's and currently discharges secondary treated effluent to oxidation ponds and then as a surface discharge to the Santa Margarita River Basin at locations distant from the plant. Sewage treatment plant 2 was constructed prior to 1960 and currently discharges secondary effluent that is primarily diverted for irrigation use at the Marine Memorial Golf Course with any excess effluent discharged to the Santa Margarita River via a series of oxidation ponds, open channel trenches and pipelines. Sewage treatment plant 13 was constructed prior to 1960 and was designed to discharge secondary effluent via force main pipeline to percolation ponds in the lower Santa Margarita River, approximately 3 miles distant (upriver). The force main pipeline

was damaged by the January 1993 flood; consequently sewage treatment plant 13 discharges secondary effluent directly to the Santa Margarita River at a location adjacent to the estuary. Groundwater extracted from this basin serves developments within the southern portion of MCB Camp Pendleton. The current quality of effluent discharged into the Santa Margarita River Basin, from all plants, does not meet the standards of the 1994 San Diego Water Quality Basin Plan, the State of California Porter Cologne Water Quality Act of 1969, and the National Pollution Discharge Elimination System requirements of the Federal Water Pollution Control Act of 1972. As a result of these discharges, the San Diego Regional Water Quality Control Board issued Cease and Desist Orders to MCB Camp Pendleton in January 1989. To comply with these Cease and Desist Orders, new facilities are required to improve wastewater treatment and disposal practices and meet the Basin Plan objectives.

Alternatives considered for correcting the conditions cited in the Cease and Desist Orders included water disposal of effluent, land disposal of effluent and no action. Water disposal alternatives included construction of an ocean outfall, live-stream discharge of either secondary- or tertiary-treated effluent to the Santa Margarita River, discharge to an off-base publicly owned treatment works, and a basin plan amendment. Land disposal alternatives included percolation basins, biological ponds, leach fields, and injection wells.

The preferred alternative, as identified in the Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS) consists of the construction of 98,000 feet of pipeline, and percolation/equalization ponds connecting all five Base sewage treatment plants and traversing through the City of Oceanside, to the City owned La Salina ocean outfall for ultimate disposal. Though all five sewage treatment plants will be connected to the ocean outfall, only sewage treatment plant 13 normally will discharge to this outfall. The other sewage treatment plants will discharge to the outfall during storm events. The Base sewage treatment plants would continue to treat sewage and discharge effluent at the current secondary level. This alternative is identified in the Final Environmental Impact Statement (FEIS) as the environmentally preferred alternative for the Santa Margarita River. Connection to the La Salina ocean outfall will require the approval of the City of Oceanside.

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A systematic and multidisciplinary approach to identify alternatives was utilized which incorporated criteria based upon technical and functional suitability. Alternatives were evaluated for technical suitability consistent with the numerous constraints imposed by available land for treatment and disposal facilities and subsurface geological and hydrogeological conditions. Technically suitable alternatives were further evaluated for their ability to satisfy the following six functional requirements of the project: (1) prevention of degradation of water quality to sustain beneficial uses identified in the San Diego Basin Plan, (2) compliance with water quality standards in accordance with State Groundwater Recharge Guidelines, (3) compliance with water quality standards in accordance with Federal and State safe drinking water standards, (4) compliance with the timelines identified in the Cease and Desist Orders, (5) maintenance of sustained volume within each water basin, and (6) prevention of saltwater intrusion into each water basin. The analysis determined that the preferred alternative is the only alternative that meets all six functional requirement criteria, and is therefore the most environmentally preferable.

All practical means to avoid or minimize environmental harm have been adopted as identified below and are amplified in the FEIS.

Construction of the on Base percolation/equalization ponds and pipeline within the Santa Margarita River will require grading and excavation. A soil erosion control plan will be prepared for construction, and will include restricting grading and excavation during the rainy season, restricting heavy equipment to existing roads and rights-of-way, installing sediment control measures, and implementing post-construction revegetation. Construction of the facilities within the City of Oceanside will also require trenching operations. Implementation of the pipeline project segments within Oceanside will be performed consistent with grading operation specifications developed by the City of Oceanside.

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To reduce potential significant impacts on paleontological resources to an acceptable level, the Marine Corps will develop an environmental education program, develop an information pamphlet and conduct an environmental education class for all construction project personnel. Additionally, environmental monitors shall be present when construction activities occur in designated sensitive areas. Environmental monitors shall ensure



that paleontological resources are recovered according to approved procedures. If paleontological resources are identified aboard the Base or within the City of Oceanside and salvage efforts are required, the Marine Corps will curate the materials. Those materials found in the City of Oceanside will be provided to the City as requested.

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The Southwestern willow flycatcher (*Empidonax traillii*), the least Bell's vireo (*Vireo belli pusillus*) and the Arroyo southwest toad (*Bufo macroscephalus*), all federally listed endangered species, are known to occur in the riparian areas of the Santa Margarita River drainage. The vireo and the flycatcher are known to occur in the Pilgrim Creek reach of the San Luis Rey River drainage.

Construction activities will likely be completed outside of the vireo and flycatcher breeding season (March 15 through September 15). Clearing of the vegetation will be completed prior to the breeding season. This will avoid the possibility of vireos and flycatchers nesting within the area that may be directly affected by the construction activities. In addition, construction outside of the breeding season will avoid indirect noise impacts to the species.

For construction that cannot be accomplished between September 15 to March 15, additional mitigation measures will be implemented in accordance with the United States Fish and Wildlife Service Section 7 Endangered Species Act Biological Opinion for Programmatic Activities and Conservation Plans in Riparian and Estuarine/Beach Ecosystems on Marine Corps Base Camp Pendleton, BO 1-6-95-F-02 (Riparian Biological Opinion) and the United States Army Corps of Engineers Section 404 Permit will be implemented. These will include a pre-construction survey that will determine whether any active vireo or flycatcher nests are within 500 feet of the construction corridor prior to construction activity. All work within 500 feet of a nest will be completed within a continuous 8-week period.

To avoid the small possibility that arroyo southwestern toads, or that other wildlife, could be injured by falling into open trenches or by burrowing into trench walls or spoils piles, no trenches will be left unprotected at night. If the arroyo southwestern toad breeding season (February 1 to September 30) cannot be avoided and preconstruction surveys reveal that construction will take place in toad habitat, mitigation measures will be implemented as mandated by the Riparian Biological

Opinion, including fencing the pipeline corridor with silt-screen or shade cloth material the night prior to trenching and removing all toads within the enclosure. Any necessary removal of toads or other animals from trenches will be performed by a biologist permitted by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service to handle Arroyo Southwestern toads.

The project will result in a temporary loss of 6.3 acres of riparian habitat in the Santa Margarita River drainage (including jurisdictional wetlands and waters of the United States), which provides habitat for the endangered willow flycatcher and vireo. Temporary impacts to riparian habitats, including mulefat scrub, southern arroyo riparian and southern willow scrub, will be mitigated through a combination of invasive exotic plant control and vegetation management to allow natural native species revegetation within five years. Restoration of temporary impacts will consist of invasive exotic plant control, measures to alleviate soil compaction that may occur during construction activities, and monitoring for a period of five years. The Marine Corps will monitor the effects of discharge elimination from sewage treatment plant 3 in the Santa Margarita Riparian system for 10 years to establish baseline data for areas upstream, adjacent to and downstream of the existing percolation basins. Hydrologic and vegetation monitoring data will be collected in accordance with the provisions of the Riparian Biological Opinion and provisions of the Clean Water Act Section 404 and 401 permits. Should changes in water quality or water levels be detected, the Marine Corps will consult with the San Diego Regional Water Quality Control Board and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service to develop and implement appropriate mitigation measures. No permanent or temporary riparian or wetland impacts are expected with project implementation within the San Luis Rey River drainage.

Critical Habitat for the Southwestern Willow Flycatcher has recently been designated by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, including the 100-year flood plain of the Santa Margarita River. However, no permanent riparian/wetland impacts are expected from project implementation within the critical habitat area. Accordingly, the project will not adversely modify this habitat.

The California gnatcatcher (*Polioptilla californica*), a federally listed threatened species, is present in the coastal sage scrub habitat near the percolation/equalization ponds and pipeline alignments. The project will result in a direct temporary impact

to 2.5 acres of the coastal sage scrub, of which only 0.80 acres are currently occupied gnatcatcher habitat. Mitigation and compensation for permanently removed occupied coastal sage scrub habitat (e.g., for the pipeline access road and the Lemon Grove ponds) will be achieved through habitat enhancement and management at a ratio of 2:1 in coastal sage scrub areas closest to the project impacts. The enhancement areas should stay free of any development or disturbance in the future. In accordance with the Biological Opinion 1-6-96-F-36 for the project (Upland Biological Opinion), coastal sage scrub habitat will be revegetated within two years of construction in all areas where permanent vegetation removal is not required (i.e., along pipeline alignments). Clearing of vegetation for the Lemon Grove ponds shall be done outside of the gnatcatcher breeding season (February 1 through July 31).

To the maximum extent possible, construction activities will be completed outside the California gnatcatcher breeding season to avoid indirect noise impact to the species. For construction that cannot be accomplished between August 1 and January 31, additional mitigation measures will be implemented in accordance with the Upland Biological Opinion. These include clearing of the vegetation prior to the breeding season, even if subsequent construction activities occur within the breeding season. This avoids the possibility of gnatcatchers nesting within the area that may be directly affected by the project. A pre-construction survey will determine whether any active gnatcatcher nests are within 500 feet of the pipeline corridor prior to construction activity. For those nests within 500 feet, a topographical analysis will be completed to determine if disturbance is probable. If so, then all work within 500 feet of a nest will be completed with a continuous 96 hour period.

To mitigate temporary impacts to coastal sage scrub habitat affected areas will be recontoured and reseeded with native coastal sage scrub species and non-native vegetation will be controlled for three years. This work will be initiated no later than the first growing season after the area is disturbed from project construction activities. Per the Upland Biological Opinion, this revegetation will be considered acceptable if the total cover by native coastal sage scrub species is at least 70 percent and the vegetation is not being artificially sustained, or if the Marine Corps can demonstrate to the satisfaction of U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service that the habitat is

insignificantly different from naturally occurring gnatcatcher habitats or fully functional coastal sage scrub on the Base.

A report summarizing habitat enhancement and restoration will be provided to the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service within 60 days of the initial phase and after three years to document the success of the mitigation measures.

Thread-leaved brodiaea (*Brodiaea filifolia*), a proposed threatened plant species, has been identified along the construction corridor adjacent to the Headquarters alignment within the southern portion of the Base. Construction will result in the removal of a small population (five individuals plants) of thread-leaved brodiaea. The plant corms will be transplanted, prior to construction, to another suitable area on the Base that is presently occupied by the species.

Vernal Pools with associated watersheds have been identified near sewage treatment plant 2 along the project pipeline alignment. The pools and associated watershed adjacent to sewage treatment plant 2 will be fenced and monitored by a biologist. An erosion control plan will also be implemented to minimize dust, sedimentation, or siltation into the pools. This plan will be implemented by the contractor and reviewed and approved by the Base to ensure that the methods implemented are deemed effective. All pipelines will follow existing roads to the maximum extent practical.

Construction will affect three archeological sites determined to be eligible for inclusion on the National Register of Historic Places. The Marine Corps will prepare a treatment and data recovery plan for these three sites; CA-SDI 12,628, CA-SDI-14,0005H, and CA-SDI-14,170. A construction monitoring plan to include a discovery plan will also be prepared. The construction monitoring plan will also include monitoring for buried cultural resources within areas of Quaternary alluvium within the project alignment and at cultural resource sites CA-SDI-8761, CA-SDI-14,060, CA-SDI-14,058 and CA-SDI-14,059. Flagging of the right-of-way boundaries and construction monitoring will occur in the vicinity of cultural resource sites CA-SDI-12,567 and CA-SDI-12,577 to ensure avoidance of the significant site areas. Should archeological resources be encountered during construction, all work will be halted in the immediate area to determine if the resources are significant and whether excavation or protection of resources is required. The

California State Historic Preservation Officer concurs with this approach.

Analysis of air emissions that would occur during construction and operation of the percolation ponds determined that these emissions will be below *de minimis* levels and that the project conforms with the State Implementation Plan for air quality.

A Coastal Consistency Negative Determination was prepared and submitted for this project to the California Coastal Commission. The Negative determination concluded that the proposed action is being carried out in a manner consistent with the enforceable policies of the Coastal Zone Management Act. The California Coastal Commission and the City of Oceanside concur with this determination.

A separate Coastal Use Development Permit was prepared and submitted to the City of Oceanside in compliance with the City of Oceanside Local Coastal Plan and the California Coastal Management Program. The Oceanside City Planning Commission has approved the Coastal Use Development Permit.

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The proposed action has been evaluated with respect to environmental and social impacts, as well as access to public information and an opportunity for public participation in the NEPA process as mandated by Executive Order 12898, "Federal Actions to Address Environmental Justice in Minority Populations and Low-Income Populations." The project is consistent with the goals and provisions of that Executive Order and no disproportionate impacts to minority or low-income populations will occur.

In the event that the Marine Corps and City of Oceanside are unable to come to an agreement for connecting to the La Salina ocean outfall, the Marine Corps will utilize the new force main pipeline to collect treated effluent from sewage treatment plants 1, 2, 3 and 8 and dispose of treated effluent at percolation/equalization basins that will be constructed at the Lemon Grove site, as discussed in the FEIS. Also, as discussed in the FEIS, effluent diversion from sewage treatment plants 1 and 2 will be continued and be used primarily to irrigate the Marine Memorial Golf Course during the dry season, and a separate pipeline would be constructed (included within the 98,000 foot estimate) from the golf course to the new force main pipeline (to the Lemon Grove percolation/equalization ponds) to dispose of surplus irrigation effluent during the winter months. In addition, as discussed in the FEIS, effluent from sewage

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treatment plants 3 and 8 would also flow to the Lemon Grove percolation/equalization ponds. Finally, treated effluent from sewage treatment plant 13 would continue to be discharged to the existing Twin Lakes equalization/percolation ponds; to the Santa Margarita River; and possibly to the Lemon Grove Ponds, capacity permitting. ~~Any continued discharge to the Santa Margarita River would be in violation of the Cease and Desist Order.~~

Accordingly, continued discharge from sewage treatment plant 13 into the Santa Margarita River would require an upgrade to sewage treatment plant 13 to meet current permit conditions or a modification of the National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System permit granted to MCB Camp Pendleton by the San Diego Regional Water Quality Control Board. Implementation of any proposal to obtain a revised National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System permit or to add advanced treatment to sewage treatment plant 13 to comply with the existing permit conditions would require additional engineering and environmental analysis. Accordingly, subsequent environmental documentation would be prepared, as appropriate, pursuant to NEPA if the need arises to further pursue or continue discharge of treated effluent from sewage treatment plant 13 into the Santa Margarita River.

Preparation of the Environmental Impact Statement began with a public scoping process to identify issues that should be addressed in the document. Involvement in scoping was offered through a combination of documented public announcements and meetings with State of California agencies. Public announcements were handled through scoping letters sent to Federal, State, and local governmental agencies, citizen groups and associations, and the general public. Also, a Notice of Intent to prepare an Environmental Impact Statement was published in local newspapers and the Federal Register. The Notice of Availability of the DEIS appeared in the Federal Register on December 20, 1996. The DEIS was distributed to Federal, State and local governmental agencies, officials, citizens groups and associations, public libraries and other interested parties. The public review period for the DEIS was from December 20, 1996 through February 2, 1997. Comments received on the DEIS focused on alternatives analysis, groundwater recharge, endangered species and wetlands issues. The FEIS addressed these comments and was distributed to officials of Federal, State and local governmental agencies, citizens groups and associations, public libraries and to other interested parties on June 27, 1997. The public review period for the FEIS ended on July 27, 1997. No comments were received on the FEIS.

The Department of the Navy believes that there are no remaining issues to be resolved with respect to this project. In the event that the La Salina ocean outfall is unavailable, all pertinent issues have been identified and addressed. Questions regarding the Environmental Impact Statement prepared for this action may be directed to Mr. Lupe E. Armas, Assistant Chief of Staff, Environmental Security, Marine Corps Base, Camp Pendleton, CA 92055-5008, telephone (619) 725-4512.

8/26/97

Date



Mr. Duncan Holaday

Deputy Assistant Secretary of the Navy  
(Installations and Facilities)